



Minister guilty of lesbianism

The sentencing of Methodist minister Rosemary Denman was as lenient as could be expected, but she came away from the trial seriously disillusioned with the upper echelon of the church

By Kim Westheimer

DOVER, NH — The United Methodist Church did not “defrock” Denman as upper-level church officials requested, instead it “merely” suspended her for less than a year.

The August 24 trial resulted from charges by Bishop Bashore that Denman was a “self-avowed practicing homosexual.” Bashore, who has authority over Denman’s ministry, had been informed by Denman that she was a lesbian. According to Denman, Bashore told her, “It would be in your own best interest to withdraw if you wish to get into another order.”

Denman said she insisted on an ecclesiastic trial because to withdraw quietly “would have been an admission of culpability and guilt of having done something wrong.”

Bishop Neil Irons, who was chosen by Bashore to preside over the trial, made it clear from the outset that testimony on theological issues pertaining to homosexuality would not be allowed as evidence. He denied Denman’s request to have expert theological witnesses testify on her behalf.

Denman was the sole witness to testify at the proceedings and questioning was allowed only on Denman’s violation of the church’s doctrine on homosexuality. The regulation adopted in 1984, states: “Since the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching, self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be ac-

cepted as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in the United Methodist Church.” The rule also states that ministers are bound to “practice fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness.”

During the trial Denman testified she became a lesbian “probably at the time of conception. I believe that God has meant me to be a lesbian just as much as he meant me to be a woman.” Denman acknowledges she was extremely homophobic most of her life. Through her relationship with her current lover, Winnie Weir — formerly a minister’s wife — she recognized her lesbianism.

On behalf of Bishop Bashore, prosecutor Reverend Stephen Mott asked the jury to find Denman guilty. “We started off to find out what God’s wants are for us,” Mott told the jury. “The reality is that Reverend Denman is an offense.”

Bashore told *GCN* he did not want people to assume gay people are not welcome to be open and vocal in the church. “I was afraid that it [the trial] would be interpreted that way,” he said. “The church has stated that sexual relationships properly speaking are between men and women in the confines of marriage. . . . The Methodist Church deals with practice, not feeling. It is the practice [of homosexual sex] that is incompatible with Christian teachings. The church has been saying all along that we love you and that we want to help you out of your deviant

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The Rev. Rosemary Dunman.



TERRY SWEENEY

Saturday Night Live was just the beginning for this gay comic

CENTERSPREAD EXCLUSIVE

New AIDS vaccine tests begin

The FDA approves human trials for the first of many experimental vaccines

By Jennie McKnight

WASHINGTON, DC — The first human trials in this country on an experimental AIDS vaccine will study the effects of the substance on 75 gay men who are HIV-negative and who have had “low-risk” sexual activity for at least three months.

Although the United States now joins Zaire and France in human AIDS vaccine tests, scientists involved in the study maintain that an effective vaccine will not be available for general use until the mid-1990s.

The study, which will be conducted by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), is not intended to assess the vaccine’s ability to prevent infection. The clinical trials will test only the safety and dosage levels for humans, as well as the vaccine’s effectiveness in stimulating the production of antibodies which may protect cells from HIV.

According to NIAID officials, gay men were chosen for the study because they, as a group, “represent the population in the United States at greatest risk of being infected with HIV, and are ultimately the most likely group in the United States to receive a vaccine.” Researchers further explain that gay men may react differently to the vaccine because, as a group, they have been exposed to different kinds of infection than the general population.

Microgenesis, Inc., a small Connecticut firm, produced the experimental vaccine using recombinant DNA technology. The vaccine itself is a protein called gp160, which is similar to the protein coat of HIV — the part of the virus which allows it to infect cells. “The vaccine consists of purified protein from HIV and not the virus itself,” said Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, NIAID director. “Therefore, no one can get AIDS from the vaccine, and we expect no adverse effects beyond those that sometimes occur from other immunizations, such as some redness

and soreness at the site of the injection.”

When mice, guinea pigs, rabbits, Rhesus monkeys and chimpanzees were injected with the vaccine, they all produced antibodies which neutralize HIV in test tubes. Researchers hope the vaccine will produce the same immune response in humans, and that the antibodies they make will, in fact, prevent HIV from infecting those exposed to it.

Human response to the vaccine is difficult to predict, in part because the animals tested do not develop AIDS when exposed to HIV. In addition, even if the results of these early trials are promising and safe dosage levels can be established, the question of how to test the vaccine’s ability to *prevent* infection remains unanswered.

One potential problem volunteers for the trials face is the likelihood that they will test positive on the ELISA blood test (the widely-used test for HIV exposure). But researchers claim the Western Blot test, used currently in conjunction with the ELISA test to confirm HIV infection, would be negative for those vaccinated. They will not be certain until the participants in the study actually develop antibodies and have their blood tested.

To prevent volunteers from possible discrimination associated with positive HIV status, NIAID will give each person vaccinated a letter describing the research and explaining their antibody status. The theory is that potential employers, insurers, and whoever else might want to know a person’s HIV status would accept the explanation in the letter and not discriminate.

Another problem volunteers may face is their inability to respond to vaccines developed in the future which prove to be more effective. The NIAID briefing paper describing the study said it “is conceivable that the ability of a participant to mount an immune response to a different AIDS vac-

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NEWSNOTES

Quote of the week

"Marilyn was also troubled about her sexuality. She told me, 'I look at other women's figures all the time. I am mesmerized by their bodies. Am I a lesbian?'"

"I went into a trance and consulted with the spirits. Finally, speaking through me,



once spirit sternly told Marilyn, 'You are not a lesbian. You recognize that, as an artist, part of your artistry is your body. Looking at other women's bodies is just part of your own admiration of your own artistry.'"

—Kenny Kingston, Marilyn Monroe's personal psychic, in an interview with the National Enquirer on the 25th anniversary of Monroe's death.

New abortion regs threaten clinics

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's threats to limit abortions are being carried out by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). HHS Secretary Otis R. Bowen announced on August 29 new rules which would prohibit clinics receiving federal money from providing abortion counseling or referrals.

Currently the federal government, under Title X of the 1970 Public Health Act, is providing over \$142 million for family planning services and related activities this year through 3,900 clinics that serve 4.3 million people, according to the New York Times.

"The clinics that now provide family planning services could not ethically operate under the proposed regulations because they would be required to direct poor pregnant women to prenatal care only. They would be unable to provide these women with information on all health care options available to wealthier women, such as abortion," said Scott R. Swirling, executive director of the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association. Although Title X prohibits federal funds from being used "in programs where abortion is a method of family planning," current guidelines require a clinic to provide counseling for all options, including abortion, if a woman requests it.

The proposed rules, published in the Federal Register, may be commented upon for sixty days. The government, which must "consider" the comments, may issue the final rules at that time which will have the force of the law.

Alice Davis, of Planned Parenthood in Cambridge, said the Planned Parenthood Federation of America is likely to file suit against the government over the new rules. Until legal action is taken, which will be after the 60-day comment period, the organization is asking people to express their disagreement with Reagan's plan to the President himself in the form of letters and telegrams.

□Jennie McKnight

AIDS test results banned from military trial

FORT HUACHUCA, AZ — A military judge has ruled that the Army's policy of banning AIDS test results from military pro-

ceedings takes precedence over current Department of Defense (DOD) policy which allows the use of test results in some cases.

The ruling was made by Col. Raymond Cole in courtmartial proceedings of a soldier on trial for having unprotected sex while knowing he carried the AIDS virus, according to the San Francisco Examiner.

"The Department of the Army letter of February 1986 says that the results of the AIDS testing may not be used in military action," said Cole. "This case is frozen, the situation is frozen. Any new regulation that comes down the road will not apply to this case."

The Army charges that Pfc. Adrian G. Morris, 27, showed "wanton disregard for human life" by having sex with two women and a man without telling them he carried HIV.

□Jennie McKnight

Coming out to kids

TALAHASSEE, FL — Lesbian mothers and gay fathers who would like to contribute to an anthology about explaining their sexual orientation to their children should contact the book's editor.

There's Something I've Been Meaning to Tell You, to be published by Naiad Press within the next two years, seeks contributions from women and men who are birth or natural parents, adoptive parents, co-parents, significant others and anyone whose relationship has had a significant impact on the raising process. Contributions can include accounts of past telling or showing by example and attitude, present telling or showing or plans for future handling of the situation.

Those putting together the anthology say they are "especially anxious to hear from any unusual/minority households...and almost any configuration that is not exclusively white, middle class and upwardly mobile." Women who would like to contribute but who are not comfortable with the writing process may be interviewed for the anthology.

Loralee MacPike, editor for the volume, can be reached at P.O. Box 6369, Altadena, CA 91001.

□Jennie McKnight

Texas prison dentist fired

DALLAS, TX — A prison dentist who refused to treat prisoners with AIDS has been fired by the Texas Department of Corrections.

Dr. David T. Spence was dismissed from his position at the Coffield prison unit near Palestine in northeast Texas after he said he wanted the option to refuse "treatment for anyone suspected of, or diagnosed with AIDS, at any time, now or in the future."

Although Spence is not the only dentist in the Texas prison system (the nation's third largest) to express concern about the possibility of HIV exposure on the job, his open defiance violated department policy that forbids medical staff from withholding care, according to the Washington Post.

"I don't think we had much choice," said David Nunlelee of the corrections department. "He just flat-out said he wasn't going to do it."

□Jennie McKnight

News for welfare moms

MILWAUKEE, WI — The Welfare Warriors, a group of AFDC and ex-AFDC mothers here has begun publishing a newspaper called *Welfare Mothers Voice*. The group was inspired by the Marias, a group of low-income mothers in Mexico, and aims to fight for dignity and respect for welfare mothers.

In addition to publishing the paper, which will include writing from each woman's experiences rather than theory, the group intends to do workshops in Wisconsin and around the country on impoverished mothers' issues and political organizing. Already the Welfare Warriors have garnered media attention by doing a city-wide Speakout for Welfare Mothers in which they equated the Wisconsin Governor-elect's "workfare" plans to slavery, according to *Sojourner*.

Pat Gowens, who works with the Welfare Warriors, said of the group, "Instead of feeling beaten down, as I had dreaded, by dealing with the problems of poverty, I've been inspired by the mothers' independence, tenacity, and creativity. The group can be reached in care of Pat Gowens 4504 N. 47, Milwaukee, WI 53218.

□Jennie McKnight

Clerks at two adult theaters arrested for selling condoms

ST. PAUL, MN — Two clerks at adult movie theaters here were arrested on August 17 for violating a Minnesota law which prohibits the sale of condoms by persons not in a health related business. The clerks, Peter Hafiz and Gennaro Sposito, were released the morning after their arrest when the City Attorney discovered the law had been declared unconstitutional in 1980.

Randall Tighe, attorney for the theater owners, charged that the arrests were retaliatory because the theaters had recently obtained a court order blocking the enforcement of a city ordinance requiring the doors be removed from movie booths in adult theaters. Both theaters had been the target of protests by neighborhood groups organized by City Council member Bill Wilson, charging that sex occurred in the booths.

"These arrests are a transparent attempt by certain people in St. Paul to retaliate against us because we got a court order blocking their ordinance saying there can't be doors on movie booths," Tighe said. "If there is another reason to enforce an unconstitutional ordinance, the reason escapes me. Why enforce it against the bookstores and not against gas stations or hotels and hotels where you can buy condoms in dispensers?"

Saint Paul Police Chief William McCutcheon said he was shocked that the law apparently was void but commended his officers for attempting to reduce prostitution in the neighborhood. "I don't expect my officers to know what goes on in every court in this land," he said. "I just applaud my officers for trying to enforce the law."

□Robert Halfhill

The right to ride

BOSTON — Four people in wheelchairs chained themselves together in front of a city bus to protest lack of accessible public transportation in Boston. The demonstration at the Park Street subway station highlighted the inaccessibility of the mass transit system and the Ride — state funded vans for the use of disabled people.

"The Ride is not acceptable for one because it's segregated," said Linda



Ellen Shub

Schneiderman of the Disabled People's Liberation Front. "And the Ride doesn't run the same number of hours. You have to call them a week in advance to make an appointment [to use the Ride] and they can call you the night before to cancel."

"Disabled people are engaged in a Civil Rights struggle," proclaimed a DPLF flyer distributed to onlookers at the demonstration. "We are being segregated, exploited and discriminated against. Like minorities, women, lesbians and gays we are protesting society's oppression...Please do not advise us to legislate, petition and write to our congressman. We have done all those things and many groups are still doing them; still, the pace of that type of improvement is unacceptably slow. We will ride. We will practice civil disobedience."

□Kim Westheimer

NEWSNOTES COMPILED BY JENNIE MCKNIGHT

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Gay Men & their partners

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Porn star Donovan dies

Casey leaves legacy of films and advice

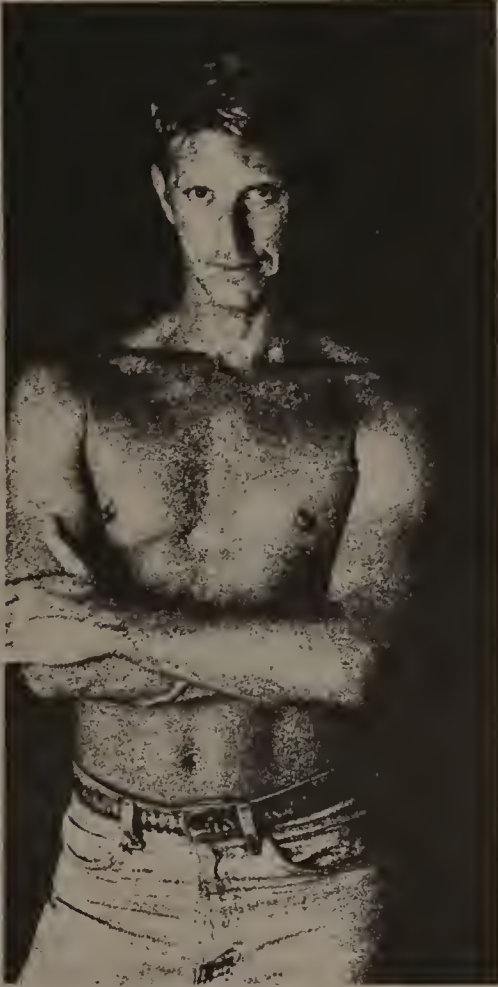
By Christopher Wittke

Casey Donovan, porn star, fashion model and advice columnist, died of AIDS-related complications on August 10 at age 43. His legendary career began in the early 1970s and can be viewed as a barometer of the trends and changes in the gay movement.

In 1971, Donovan (who was born Calvin Culver) appeared in the landmark X-rated film *Boys in the Sand*, which single-handedly yanked the gay porn genre out of the closet. "It was the first time a gay porno film had played a legit art house [the 55th Street Playhouse in New York City]...[Wakefield Poole, the director,] ran big ads in the New York *Times*, full pages in the *Village Voice*," Donovan told *Stallion* magazine in 1985. The film was a big hit at the box office, appealing to gay audiences and many "sexually progressive" straights. It was the first porn film to be reviewed by *Variety*. Donovan often recalled with great dismay the racist response he received from many people over his interracial sex sequence with Black porn star Tommy Moore in *Boys in the Sand*.

In the mid-70s he began writing "Letters to Casey," an advice column in *Stallion* for gay men. His gay-positive attitude never diminished, even as the AIDS epidemic began to take hold. "I could see that I might be able to help some men become happy homosexuals — and as it's turned out, it's been wonderful for me," he once said.

Besides *Boys*, his film credits also include the classic *L.A. Tool & Die*, *Heatstroke* and *Boys in the Sand II*, a 1984 sequel released thirteen years after the original. At the time of the film's release, Wakefield Poole explained the unorthodox use of the 40-year-old Donovan in the youth-obsessed porn industry. The director said his objective was to show what Casey's "...life is like now...twelve years later — to show that



he's still going strong."

In more recent times Casey performed in the Gay Men's Health Crisis' safer sex film, *Chances of a Lifetime*. His goal, as stated in a *Stallion* interview, was "being a good role model — and showing young men that it's possible to keep it together even at twice their ages!" □

Lesbian Minister

Continued from page 1

lifestyle and toward God's design that is heterosexuality."

"I'm very angry with the old boys network," said Denman. "It was so well greased. What other court system would allow the complainant [Bashore] to choose the judge? To watch Irons and Bashore working together...Bashore and I always had a good relationship. I trusted that man and I honored him. I can't honor him anymore... Bashore prostituted himself."

"If the church fears anything more than self-respecting gay men and lesbians it is equality," Denman said at a press conference outside the trial. "I will not tolerate this sort of response to me. I will live out my love for another woman without their judgment."

Denman expressed respect for the Methodist jurors who gave the lightest possible sentence in the trial. She said she was not surprised the jury found her guilty of being a practicing lesbian. "They didn't have much of a choice. I mean does she or doesn't she [practice lesbianism]?" Denman asked rhetorically.

In its statement at the end of the trial the jury asserted, "We affirm the social principle of the 1984 Book of Discipline which states, 'homosexual persons no less than heterosexual persons are individuals of sacred worth who need the ministry and guidance of the church in their struggle for human fulfillment as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship which enables reconciling relationships with God, with others and with self.' It is not clear to us that the Rev. Rosemary Denman has received adequate spiritual and emotional care of such in reconciling fellowship within the United Methodist Church."

Following the trial the head juror, Janet Smith-Ruston, a minister from South Walpole, Massachusetts, told *GCN*, "I believe God wants for us fulfillment, a life of care and in our lifetime the realization of love. I believe God affirmed whole relationships and it is only up to God, Rosemary and Winnie to decide if their relationship is whole."

A number of Methodist ministers who attended the trial wore pink triangles in sup-

port of Denman. "Unfortunately most of the people here [at the trial] have come to look at this [case] in a legislative sense: if you don't follow the rules, you can't play the game," said Mark Henderson, a minister from Gofftown, New Hampshire, who donned a pink triangle. "But this is a case that should transcend church law. Presumably...we teach [that] there are things far greater than law."

"The majority of clergy believe it is not right to see homosexuality as incompatible with Christianity. [They also believe] Rosemary Denman has not done anything wrong," said Wellesley, Massachusetts minister Richard Warding, who also wore a pink triangle.

Denman was suspended until June of 1988 when the Executive Session of the New Hampshire Annual [United Methodist] Conference will meet. By that time the church will have reconsidered its position on lesbian and gay ministers at an April conference in St. Louis.

Regardless of the church's decision in April, Denman said she has no desire to remain a minister in the Methodist Church. "My theology has broadened to the point that I could not be confined within the parameters of Methodist theology," she said. Denman is anticipating becoming a minister within the Unitarian Universalist Church.

filed from Boston
(Jim Keily contributed to this story) □

Vaccine

Continued from page 1

cine could be impaired." Potential volunteers must sign a consent form which describes the risk.

If the current trials produce positive results, between one and two hundred additional people will be added to the study after about six months. The larger group will be studied for a year to establish accurate dosage information.

filed from Boston □

Firefighter's appeals hearing heats up

In wake of 3rd suspension, an 11-year veteran of Boston's fire department finally names names

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — An appeals hearing on the recent five-day suspension of a Black gay firefighter ended in dramatic allegations of homophobic and racist harassment in the Boston Fire Department. The charges made by firefighter Robert Jackson include allegations against Mayor Raymond Flynn's brother and have been met with outrage by the Boston department.

Jackson, who has been publicly battling the fire department since April of this year (see *GCN*, Vol. 14, No. 39), was suspended without pay for "failure to go through the [department's] Information Office prior to making official public comments on departmental matters."

In a letter to Jackson, Boston Fire Department Commissioner Leo Stapleton elaborated on these charges: "It appears that you are circumventing departmental, union and administrative appeal procedures in favor of making public complaints in violation of Departmental Rules and Regulations. Your conduct is unbecoming of a [firefighter]...because you refuse to engage in any procedures designed to remedy the problems which you bring to the public through the media. Further you give the public a misleading view of the department by stating that nothing has been done to address your concerns about yourself and emergency operations."

While Jackson has spoken to numerous media sources in the past five months, the fire department has focused on newspaper articles in the lesbian and gay press, an interview conducted on local station WROR's gay radio program, *Boston's Other Voice*, and a television interview appearing on Boston television station WNEV's *Urban Update*.

At the hearing Jackson was pressed to give names and dates of incidents of harassment. Jackson responded by naming Stapleton, Dennis Flynn and a number of officers and firefighters. Jackson accused Flynn of sexually taunting him approximately ten years ago and again within the last year.

Fire Department Information Officer Matthew Corbett read a statement prepared by Dennis Flynn refuting Jackson's charges. Flynn said he hardly knows Jackson and called the charges "some desperate attempt to bail himself [Jackson] out of whatever problems he has."

Stapleton was quoted in the Boston *Herald* as saying Jackson's charges were "slandorous remarks" and "beyond credibility." "It's really sad to think that such an attack could be made against a man like Flynn," said Stapleton.

"How can [Stapleton] say [Jackson's charges] are not true if they didn't in-



Boston firefighter Robert Jackson

vestigate the facts," said Jackson's lover Randy. Randy, who asked that his last name not be used, said Jackson had told him about the harassment by Flynn eight years ago.

Randy, who said he will speak out because Jackson cannot do so, maintains that Jackson is being harassed by the department. Jackson was suspended for five days in June of this year for displaying "disrespect or insolence to a superior." He was also fired by the department in 1979 and was reinstated a year later following an appeal. Randy claimed the department is doing their "best to ruin his [Jackson's] credibility."

Jackson refused to comment on the case due to his recent suspension. In the past Jackson has asserted his right to speak publicly about his personal experiences within the fire department. These experiences, he maintained, are not in the same category as fire department business which is regulated by the Information Office.

According to Corbett, "personal experience[s] fall under [the Information Officer's jurisdiction], especially when they aren't true." Corbett, who is in charge of giving firefighters permission to speak to the media, added, "I wouldn't grant him permission to talk at any time. That type of person I basically would not [let talk to the media]."

Jackson, who was represented at the hearing by attorney David Grayer, is attempting to fundraise to cover his legal costs. Donations can be sent to Jackson c/o *GCN*, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116. □

Festival burned out

Sierra forest fire robs lesbians of West Coast cultural gathering

By Kim Westheimer

YOSEMITE, CA — Raging forest fires have forced the cancellation of the West Coast Women's Music and Comedy Festival, scheduled for the Labor Day weekend.

One-hundred and fifty women and six children evacuated the site of the festival on September 1. According to festival producer Robin Tyler, the fire was smoldering on both sides of the road used for the evacuation. "We could see flames on either side of us," said Tyler.

The fire has currently consumed 37,000 acres of land in the Yosemite area.

The blaze, touched off by heat lightning and dry weather, caused telephones at the festival site to be out of order on August 30. Electricity was cut off the following day.

Michelle Crone, a festival coordinator, said she believes the women on the site were never in serious danger. The women preparing for the festival included rangers and firefighters who constantly monitored the situation.

Tyler noted that California rangers sta-

tioned at a command post six miles away never came to the festival site with information about the fire. Rangers provided assistance only after the women decided to evacuate and notified local authorities.

According to Tyler, the evacuation was calm and orderly. "I'm just grateful that no one was injured," she said.

Women who have purchased tickets for the festival will be contacted in the next few weeks, said Tyler, who reported the bulk of the festival's money has already been spent. As *GCN* goes to press, festival organizers are sorting through their books to decide how to deal with the ticket holders.

Tyler, who also produces the Southern Women's Music and Comedy Festival, said she expects both festivals to take place next year.

filed from Boston □

GCN welcomes all letters to the editor except personal attacks. Carbon copies of letters sent elsewhere are printed on a space-available basis. The opinions expressed here are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN membership. Letters must be TYPED, DOUBLE-SPACED AND NO LONGER THAN THREE PAGES. Send to: Community Voices, GCN, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

Sexual photos inappropriate and nauseating

Dear GCN:

I am appalled! I am a university student and a fairly new subscriber to GCN. As I flipped through the August issue (9-15), I expected, as usual, to find informative articles on the international, national, and local level. I expected to be educated about current issues and informed about events that concern the gay community. I also anticipated some humor along the way! Your newspaper usually makes me THINK about current issues and it captures my interest with advertisements, classified ads, calendars, and commentaries. This time, as I read this issue, I found all of these things and more — except that which was “more” made me close the paper and put it aside. The article, “What’s a Dyke to Do?” took a different look at the AIDS issue and safe



sex. However, the visual aids to the article seem unnecessary and rather offending. Offending because in a respected and educational newspaper, sexually graphic photographs seem quite inappropriate and for me, personally nauseating.

Some stereotypes that the gay community so often must defend are that we are all sexually explicit and the core of our relationships is always sex; in addition, we all support promiscuity. Indeed, this is false, as stereotypes so frequently are. In an age when discrimination and prejudice are still hot issues, I believe that such an important news source should maintain professionalism. Whether you like it or not, GCN, you represent the homosexual community, as diverse as we are. I hope that in the future you will represent our community in a manner more generally respected. According to my perspective, one of the “goals” of the homosexual community is to simply be accepted in modern society, and one way to obtain this acceptance may be to obtain respect.

Since I am a fairly new subscriber to GCN, I do not know if this type of “humor” is common in your publication, but if it is, GCN, will you kindly consider marking the appropriate issues with a “rated X” stamp?

Thank You,
B. L. Sterling
Newmarket, NH

A call to older gay men

Dear GCN:

Despite adverse weather conditions, 42 men from throughout New England enthusiastically participated August 15 in the birth of a new organization for older gay men. Those present agreed that a program for older gays was long overdue, and a number of interesting projects were suggested for the group.

The organization (still unnamed) will meet on the third Saturday of each month at 2 p.m. at 6 Hamilton Place, third floor, in downtown Boston. The members took home a questionnaire which they will fill out

and return to the chairman, indicating areas of special interest. From this information, it is hoped to build a network of special interest groups that can meet separately to pursue common interests. Some suggested activities included trips, parties, lectures, discussion groups, movies, safe sex parties, etc.

The group hopes also to develop an outreach program for shut-ins that could include phone calls, letters, cards and visits.

The mood varied from humor to pathos as the participants told of their marriages, families, deaths of lovers, loneliness, discrimination, etc. It is hoped that the organization will provide an opportunity for each person to find some people and activities that will add pleasure to his life.

If you are an older gay man in New England, or if you enjoy the company of older gay men, you should plan to attend the next meeting on September 19. If you feel fairly sure you will be joining the group and would like to have a part in defining the activities and directions, send a letter to P.O. Box 352, Reading, MA 01867, and request a questionnaire. Also, if you know of other older gays who you think would enjoy the opportunities presented by the group, please pass the word along that they are welcome to come to the September 19 meeting. Anonymity is assured if desired. In addition to New Jersey and New York, attendees on August 15 came from all New England states except Vermont. If you are eligible, become a part of this exciting new organization! Add a new dimension to your life! There is a lot of fun to be had “out there”!

Woody Baldwin
Reading, MA

Bi’s march on Washington

Dear GCN:

The National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights is going to be the most impressive display of lesbian and gay pride and solidarity ever seen in this country. Can bisexuals afford to sit back and watch this event unfold on national TV? Not a chance. In August, the National Steering Committee of the March on Washington approved a proposal for a National Bisexual Contingent, submitted by the East Coast Bisexual Network (ECBN). Now, bisexual men and women nationwide have to get out there and march on October 11th, and get out there *as* bisexuals.

These are dangerous times for bi’s. Nearly every day we are treated to some nasty,ophobic media coverage of bisexuals and AIDS. Bi’s are as victimized by the anti-choice/anti-sex agenda of the Reagan Administration as are lesbians and gays. We confront the same hostilities, the same discriminations. The pending Bork Supreme Court appointment further threatens bisexual civil liberties.

Gay liberation is *our* liberation, so we have to work for gay causes at every opportunity. The list of demands drawn up by the March organizers express many of our concerns. However, bisexual and gay issues aren’t identical. We can’t let gays represent us in D.C. We have to go there *ourselves*, as bisexuals, to speak openly and vociferously as a separate and vital contingent. We must achieve some visibility on our own terms instead of passing as either heterosexuals or gays. It’s a matter of pride, and survival.

Why travel to D.C. and melt into a gay affinity group or organization when you aren’t a gay or lesbian? Once we begin to *publicly* claim our bisexual identities, we will no longer go unacknowledged or left out. The very fact that the March isn’t called “The Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual March on Washington” is symptomatic of the fact that we haven’t been visible enough, as bi’s, within the gay community. Our bisexual rights will be protected and promoted only when we begin to organize locally, regionally and nationally.

Marching on Washington as bisexuals gives us our first chance to affirm our bisexual pride nationally. Also, we get to meet bi’s from all over the country. Please get in touch with us if you’d like to march with the Bisexual Contingent. Let us know if you’d be interested in forming or joining a delegation in your region. The more people helping, the more people we’ll get down there. Call: (617) BIS-MOVE, or write: March, c/o Boston Bisexual Network, P.O. Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140.

Witness the birth of a national bisexual movement in Washington on October 11th!

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of eleven, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in “editorials” represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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Lucy Friedland
Liz Nania
Brookline, MA

Letter-writing for our rights

Dear GCN:

The gay and lesbian community throughout this state is under attack. In the city of Boston alone, there were 135 cases of anti-gay violence last year. It is estimated that 80% of violent attacks against gays go unreported because of the victim's fear of loss of job when it becomes known that he/she is gay. We have an opportunity to stem the tide of brutality that threatens the lives and happiness of 600,000 men and women across the state on a daily basis. Passage of the Massachusetts Gay Civil Rights Bill, H.5469, would be a major step forward in protecting members of our community from this intolerable abuse.

The lack of a comprehensive, statewide gay rights bill sends a clear message to criminals that gays are easy marks, that society does not care enough about us to protect us from discrimination and from life-threatening violence. The Gay Civil Rights Bill is a long overdue means of correcting years of injustice and suffering.

On behalf of the Greater Boston Lesbian and Gay Alliance, I urge each and every person in this state to write a letter to his/her senator supporting passage of this bill.

Your letter or phone call can make the difference between success and defeat. Every one of us has the potential and the power to be an effective lobbyist and organizer. By helping friends, neighbors, and co-workers to write letters and to address envelopes, we are educating others and taking a certain amount of control over our own destinies.

There are no acceptable excuses for inaction. The time is NOW. The Gay Rights Bill is within as little as *one* vote of passing the Senate and being signed into law. Five or ten letters from constituents to a state senator may very well decide that legislator's vote. Surely now, more than ever before, when we are so close to a resounding success, we must challenge ourselves. We must cast aside doubt and fear; we must find the strength to mobilize ourselves and our friends to work for gay civil rights and for the dignity and liberty of all people.

Passage of the Massachusetts Gay Civil Rights Bill is a dream worth making sacrifices for. As chair of the Alliance, I care deeply about the fate of this bill. Members of the Alliance share this commitment. That's why, for the first time in the Alliance's history, we have formed a committee dedicated to this bill's passage. Our hope is that our example of involvement, of working with a broad-based gay and straight civil rights coalition, will set a precedent for addressing other progressive issues in the future.

No one individual or group of individuals can claim exclusive access to the banner of justice; neither the Alliance nor any other group can carry it on all the journeys it needs to make. Only through empowerment, through inclusionary politics in which the ultimate goal is to educate and activate all citizens, particularly those whose rights are threatened, will the cause of justice be served.

The Gay Rights Bill presents us all with a powerful opportunity to involve hundreds, thousands of people in the struggle for our civil rights. It is an opportunity I hope all will take advantage of: by writing letters, by involving others, by organizing within our own communities.

Anyone wishing more information about the Alliance's Massachusetts Gay Network to pass the gay/lesbian civil rights bill should call 265-0348.

Fraternally,
Will Hutchinson
Boston, MA

Promoting lesbian health: a context for examining lesbians and AIDS

By Nancy D. Polikoff

Laurie Sherman's article on safe sex for lesbians is to be commended for providing information with the assumption that each woman has the right to decide for herself how to think about her sexual behavior in the age of AIDS. She strives hard to convey a pro-sex message, as well as a safe sex message, but here she only partially succeeds.

The appropriate context for discussing lesbians and AIDS, and the only one that can adequately resist both AIDS hysteria and an anti-sex bias, is an overall discussion of lesbian health. If our concern is illness and death in our community, AIDS is one piece of the picture. But because lesbian sexual practices that do not involve contact with blood do not carry a high risk for transmitting the AIDS virus, I believe there are far more serious threats to the life and health of our community than AIDS.

The most obvious example of my point is breast cancer, which strikes one out of every eleven women. Read that again: ONE OUT OF EVERY ELEVEN WOMEN. Lesbians may indeed be at higher risk than heterosexual women because fewer of us have been pregnant, and women who have never been pregnant are at higher risk for this disease.

The five-year mortality rate for discussing cancer is over 30 percent. In absolute numbers, about 100,000 cases are diagnosed a year and each year about 30,000 women die. Breast cancer may be preventable through proper diet, and early detection through self-examination, and appropriate health care can mean the difference between life and death. For example, the ten-year survival rate is almost twice as high if the tumor is discovered when it is less than two centimeters, than if the tumor is discovered at the more advanced stage of more than five centimeters.

Let's take another one: smoking. This year, lung cancer surpassed breast cancer as the leading cancer-related cause of death for women. For more than a decade the percentage of women smoking has dramatically increased, and women as a group have more trouble quitting than do men as a group. Morbidity and mortality associated with smoking can be dramatically reduced by an apparently simple change in behavior — stopping smoking. As a community we have evolved no risk reduction strategies for lesbian smokers.

In this context, remember that there has been only one reported case of suspected transmission of HIV infection through lesbian sexual activity. Specifically, a woman with AIDS who was an IV drug user appears to have transmitted the virus to another

If our concern is illness and death in our community, AIDS is one piece of the picture...I believe there are far more serious threats to the health of our community than AIDS.

woman through sexual behavior which included "digital and oral contact with the vagina [of the woman with AIDS] and oral contact with her anus." This activity occurred while the woman with AIDS was menstruating, and the researchers describe that "both women had vaginal bleeding as a result of traumatic sexual activity."

Although it might appear that the attention being paid to the risk of lesbians contracting AIDS is a result of the fact that the disease, in its full-blown form, is fatal, I believe that explanation is insufficient. Lesbians with a family history of breast cancer who do not change their diet and do self-exams, lesbians over 40 who do not get mammograms, lesbians who smoke, all directly court death, and our community is silent. I believe that sensational discussions of lesbians and AIDS outside a context of total lesbian health are by-products of our difficulty in addressing our sexuality, of our sexual repression which, in and of itself, is bad for the overall health of the lesbian community. In other words, I think there is so much focus on lesbians and AIDS

because it is about sex, not because it is about illness and death.

If illness and death were our true concern, even the discussion of lesbians and AIDS would be different. Sharing the needles and works associated with IV drug use are a known way that lesbians get AIDS. The risk to our community is not that "dirty" lesbians are fucking clean sisters and giving them the disease; lesbians are getting AIDS because they use drugs. Ignoring drug abuse in our community while we write and talk about lesbian "safe sex" guidelines reflects a race and class bias and suggests that some lesbian lives need not be saved.

Our sexuality is a critical part of our health. When we accept additional, outwardly imposed restrictions on our sexual exploration we can only aggravate the self-imposed restrictions which we learned from our female socialization and from the inevitable internalized homophobia which comes as a part of this culture. We lesbians need greater understanding of our sexual practices, of the role of sexuality in our lives, of the development of each of us as a sexual being, and of the sexual history of our relationships. We need to talk explicitly about what we do and how we feel about it and how we integrate sex into the rest of our lives. We need above all an open climate about our sexuality and public recognition among ourselves that both mortality, in the form of suicides, and morbidity, in the form of dysfunctional lives, result from our sexual repression.

Consider the following excerpt from the brochure entitled, "Lesbians and AIDS: What's the Connection?," written by the Women's AIDS Network and distributed by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation:

Am I At Risk?

Since the AIDS virus is transmitted primarily through blood and semen, lesbians who may be at risk are those who...

- Have sexual contact with—
- people who use IV drugs;...
- people of either sex whose sexual histories are unknown;
- people who...have received blood transfusions or blood products between 1979-1985.

If this is supposed to make you worry about the woman you made love with the first night you met her and every night for a week after that and haven't seen since, and make you grateful about all such women you wanted to make love with and didn't, it is a cruel joke indeed. Remember, there is only one reported case of sexual transmission of AIDS or HIV infection through lesbian sexual practice, and those practices explicitly involved exposure to blood.

Each lesbian must decide for herself whether to alter her sexual practices because of AIDS. But the information she needs to make a choice should explicitly validate sexual activity and exploration (which Laurie Sherman's article did) and should accurately discuss the risk of HIV infection in the context of other risks of death and serious illness for lesbians (which Laurie Sherman's article did not); otherwise, the information does not foster optimal lesbian health. Rather, it both fosters and reflects internalized homophobia and sexual repression.

A San Francisco lesbian health worker active on AIDS issues said last year that she would rather that hundreds of lesbians never make love again than that one lesbian develop an HIV illness. Such an attitude sees greater danger in a multitude of sexual practices which have never been found to transmit the AIDS virus and sees no danger in total repression and denial of our sexuality.

It is hard to watch our gay brothers die from a virus transmitted through their sexual practices. Understandably, that makes us examine our sexual practices as well. AIDS has also called mainstream attention to gay male sexuality, making it easy for lesbians to feel more invisible than ever. AIDS is our issue, because we face the increase in homophobia, because we are both paid and volunteer AIDS workers, and because we rightfully feel solidarity with gay men. And it is our responsibility to educate our community about health and illness, including everything that is known about transmission

of the AIDS virus. But the perception of our risk of contracting AIDS should not be distorted, and our response must keep these two priorities always in mind:

- Each lesbian must determine her own sexual practices based upon accurate information about the transmission of AIDS provided in the context of promoting the health of our community; and
- Positive sexuality is critical to lesbian health. We need to foster, not discourage, lesbian sexual expression.

So, next week, will GCN run a centerspread on breast cancer?

Nancy Polikoff is a law professor at American University in Washington, D.C., who writes on a variety of family law and lesbian issues.

"Speaking Out" is part of our continuing effort to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings and comments to us, and to respond to ideas expressed in this space. The opinions expressed are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN membership. Submissions must be TYPED, DOUBLE-SPACED, AND NO LONGER THAN FIVE PAGES. Send to: Speaking Out, GCN, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

Our new look

With this issue, we unveil our new graphic redesign of GCN, the culmination of work that began five months ago. For you long-time readers, we hope the change pleases your eye and brightens your spirits; if this is the first time you've picked up a copy, welcome aboard!

A special thank you to Niall Sweeney, who heads back to his native Dublin this week, for his patience, vision and artistry. We'll miss you.

GCN Job Opening

Typesetter (available mid-October): Typeset news and features articles and other copy for weekly paper, as well as ad copy, promotional materials, etc. Position involves other staff duties as well. **Qualifications:** Strong typing and/or word processing skills required. Typesetting experience, particularly on a Compugraphic Editwriter 7500 helpful. (Training is available.) Strong writing and good grammar/copy editing skills preferred. **Deadline for application is Oct. 1.**

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To apply for this position please send resume and cover letter ASAP to: Typesetting Search Committee, GCN, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

Behind the Gold Lamé Curtain

Reporter investigates reality behind rumors of Eastern European cafe society.

By Richard Steinman

I write in reaction to several reports published in Western Europe (e.g. Ian Christie's article in the January-February 1987 issue of *Gay Scotland*, "Are Reds Going Pink?") to the effect that in East Germany, Yugoslavia, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, "there are now recognized gay organizations and, in addition, there are gay cafes, pubs and discos." I have just visited for seven weeks in the latter three countries and offer a highly subjective view.

From an out of print edition of *The Sparticus Guide* I had obtained a list of gay meeting places in Czechslovakia and Poland but, in the rush to get away, missed the Hungarian listings.

In Gdansk and Krakow, Poland, and in Prague, Czechoslovakia, lesbian/gay people share their meeting places with heterosexuals. A significant factor to take into account is time of day. During the daytime, cafes listed in *Sparticus* are so "mixed" as to be unrecognizable as gay environments, but in the evening an extremely subtle gay presence may be discerned. For example in Prague's Cafe Europa three or four tables are occupied solely by men, quietly — one might almost say, inhibitedly — sipping their drinks and chatting in low voices. These men, in their thirties and forties, are interspersed amongst a half dozen mixed-sex couples ranging in age from late teens to mid-fifties, also subdued. All of the latter seem to be straight.

At a large table in a corner six or eight people in their late teens and twenties are thoroughly enjoying themselves with very few inhibitions, indeed. They are of both sexes. The only hint that some or all might be gay derives from their unconventional appearance and their *joie de vivre*.

In Prague, *Sparticus* listed a certain disco as being another "mixed" gathering place for gay people. I did not actually attend but, observing those entering the elevator, some resembled the mixed gender, possibly gay group at the Europa.

The only openly gay people I observed in

either Poland or Czechoslovakia were attending the opera in Krakow. I identified the two men in the front of my box as gay because in the dark the older, in his mid-thirties, periodically caressed the shoulder and hair of the younger, and because the younger looked strikingly gay in both physical attitude and clothing (e.g., extremely tight-fitting trousers).

During the interval I immediately recognized three very uninhibited men in their twenties as gay. They seemed to *want* to be recognized as such. They very much enjoyed being who they were and projecting that to others. Suddenly their mood changed. They had spotted the alluring chap from my box standing completely alone, at a distance. The three men gave the appearance of finding this sexy newcomer very attractive. They plotted their strategy and one finally walked the distance to approach him. After a few minutes of chat, he returned to his friends, a bit subdued.

In great contrast to the openness of this group was the 40-year-old man who took me home with him from the Europa in Prague. Except in the privacy of his flat, he was extremely circumspect. (For example, after leading me from the cafe with his eyes, he walked quite a distance on the pavement with no further acknowledgement or backward glance. Finally, it was *I* who had to break the ice.) He *was* willing — perhaps couldn't avoid — to have a few of his neighbors see us approach the bus stop very early the next morning, but it was still dark.

On to Hungary, without benefit of *Sparticus*. During my first ten days I search in vain, while on intermission time at the opera, for uninhibited, Krakow-type chaps, hoping to ask for a referral to a gay cafe. This tactic did not pay off. Then, quite by chance — asking directions on a bus — I met a gay man who eventually informed me that every night the Egyetem Eszpreszo, in the heart of Budapest, turns completely gay and, unlike all the cafes in Prague, which close at 11 p.m., it remains open until three

Continued on page 11

Pre-Teen TV

Cross-dressing at 12 demanded strength; cross-dressing prison requires pride.

By Dwayne (Candie) Miller

Every word I write I write with bitter grief and sour gall well mixed with guilt and blame. Even today, nine years later, here in prison, I can't devise a way to combat the emotional trauma I was subjected to at age 12.

Contrary to many gays, at the tender age of 12, I came out as a transvestite oblivious to the hardship and struggle that would soon play their roles in my rude awakening. I am an only child. I had a loving, supporting grandmother who, despite my transvestitism, loved, accepted and encouraged me. I lived with her that particular summer while Mom & Dad were away vacationing. As the summer progressed, so did my ordeal. I lived in a small, narrow-minded town where homosexuality was extremely discreet, if at all practiced.

My anticipation of rejection, fear and ridicule was confirmed too soon. In a short time, all the people I had known and loved so well had very cruelly washed their hands of me. I was now a misfitted outcast. In their eyes, I was now an insignificant fag, devoid of feelings and emotions. Their racially motivated attitudes towards my lifestyle began to give me self-doubts. I had no one to confide in. My grandmother didn't understand, so I would go out back to our garden and there I would sit, my self-esteem sodden, my spirit lacerated, and my faith ragged. They say pressure can burst a pipe. Well, the pressure I endured was frightening. They made a spectacle of me, they pointed, laughed and openly displayed their distaste for me. They prodded me with personal questions, they constantly tried to figure and analyze me. They studied me on would study a very quiet stream.

Even though the surface appears calm,

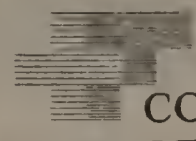
the depths obscure my turmoil. With childlike faith, I began to battle my self-doubts. Instead of giving up my transvestism, I had designed for myself a framework of elaborate justification for my actions absolving myself of any pangs of guilt. Inside me a war was raging. I was like two people. I felt two spirits. In combat, two minds seeking control. I didn't understand my dual identity. As my confusion and anger surfaced, so did the man in me. But, as I looked in the mirror, a woman peered back at me. I felt complete in my overt female trappings. I would stop dressing up for no one. The only thing that kept me sane was my first love, David.

David was 16. He was a lean, lithe swimmer with a combination of youth, charm and vulnerability that made him exceptionally attractive. David was my everything. I was crazy for him. In my eyes, David made other guys obsolete. How I longed for those hot summer days to turn to nights so I could meet him secretly in our garden. I vividly recall our last night together. David had come to end our relationship. He could no longer chance someone discovering our forbidden love. As we stood in the garden the darkness enveloped us. The marble statues were all around mocking us, laughing at love gone awry, for now we were like them, frozen and cold.

Despite pain and loneliness that had so overtaken me, I absorbed the love and continued. But, the sudden death of my grandmother got me a ticket to ride the emotional roller-coaster which took me to a mental hospital. Like a nightmare with no end, scenes began to play themselves out in my

Continued on page 11

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I will be closing the Downtown Cafe from October 9 through October 12 to take and board my employees in Washington for the "March."

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Daniel J. Holmes,
owner

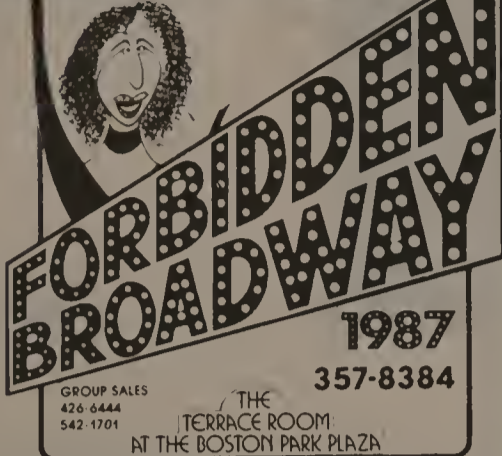
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Pop divas raise \$60,000 for AIDS Action Committee.



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Boston's AIDS Action Committee netted \$60,000 from concerts by three pop divas this summer. The AAC sold benefit tickets to the concerts by Dionne Warwick, appearing with Burt Bacharach, Anita Baker and Whitney Houston, and to receptions with the singers.

Upcoming AAC events include an as-yet unnamed ball (to replace the Dynasty Ball) which will be held on October 17. And on November 22, the Juke Box is sponsoring an AAC benefit with Chubby Checker, entitled "Let's Twist Again." Looks like Boston this fall will be bouffant for days.

□Loie Hayes



Anita Baker

Mrs. Dalliance

Virginia Woolf says yes to Vita in Edna O'Brien's play

Virginia, a play by Edna O'Brien. Directed by Eric Engel for Nora Theatre Group. With Mimi Huntington, Roger Curtis and Kippy Goldfarb. At the Lyric Stage, Aug. 20-29.

By Loie Hayes

Lesbians and like-minded folks interested in Virginia Woolf should keep a look out for future productions of Edna O'Brien's *Virginia*. Boston's new Nora Theatre Group gave audiences a spirited introduction to Woolf's life and loves in their recent two-week engagement at the Lyric Stage.

Woolf's own words form the core of O'Brien's script. The rarified content of much of Woolf's work, lines like "But is it founded upon texture or

upon structure," guarantee a challenge to audience and actors alike. Fortunately Mimi Huntington's Virginia glides through these mind-bogglers. Huntington's performance successfully encompasses the range of Woolf's emotional tides, from giddy teasing to despair.

After a cramped encapsulation of Woolf's childhood and adolescence, the heart of the play focusses on her marriage with Leonard Woolf and her three-year affair with Vita Sackville-West. The contrast between Leonard's cautiousness and Vita's playfulness is central, not only to the script but also, at least metaphorically, to Virginia Woolf's battle for creativity and sociability in the face of debilitating depressions.

Vita is introduced to the script after the mold of Woolf's marriage is set: Virginia has come through a period of institutionalization and she and Leonard are mutually affectionate and caring. Kippy Goldfarb plays Vita with a lady-like swagger, carefully balancing her erotic power against Virginia's intellectual prowess and emotional frailty. Their coy seduction scene starts off with flirtatious sparring and ends with decisive lust.



Yet the affair was as limited as most and is written out of the script by the end of the next scene. We're left with the impression that for as much as Virginia enjoyed a sexual love affair with Vita, and the companionship of other female friends, her marriage to Leonard was necessary, both to her mental stability and to her social sense of self. The line "Life and a lover. It does not scan," conveys the predicament Virginia apparently could not transcend.

Literary acclaim, the stresses of World War II, and increasing depression shape the last quarter of the script. Roger Curtis makes a good effort in the difficult role of Leonard. With all his attention to Virginia's equilibrium, his pity mostly overshadows his passion for her capabilities.

With *Virginia* as its first production, one can't help hoping for more feminist productions from the Nora Theatre Group. □

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FIRST Just say yes to

Terry Sweeney quickly rose to national prominence in the 1985-86 season of NBC's *Saturday Night Live*. This out-of-the-closet, gay male funnyman was arguably the most radical presence seen on weekly television, before or since. His infamous portrayals of Nancy Reagan became the highlight of that season, but then he dropped out of sight. This spring Terry resurfaced as a guest host on Fox Broadcasting's *The Late Show* where, among other very queer things, he did a Nancy Reagan strip tease. I interviewed him not long after that and was struck by his quick sense of humor, even checking the over-the-phone microphone became hilarious. "Testing," I said. "No!" Terry interrupted, "No testing! No mandatory testing, education for the children in elementary schools." We talked about the tough *Saturday Night Live* year, his sense of spirituality and his various projects on the drawing board. I asked him if he remembered Gay Community News from his early days in Boston and if he considered it a "radical lesbian" paper, as I so often hear men describe it. He said, "Of course I remember GCN. I was a radical lesbian at the time, so I was grateful to have a paper that represented my interests. It spoke to me!"

GCN: Did you write all of your own material when you hosted *The Late Show*?

TS: I wrote all of my own material with a lot of help from Lanier Laney, he's my lover of seven years. He wrote a lot of my stuff with me when I was on *Saturday Night Live*. My husband came up with a lot of the brilliant ideas!

GCN: Is *Saturday Night Live* something you don't like to talk about? Why did you leave?

TS: It was a very mutual decision. There was a lot of conflict between myself and the Powers That Be there. There was a sense that I really couldn't do what I wanted to do. Many of the sketches that were on were the result of a tremendous amount of struggle and fighting. By the time I was doing them on *Saturday* I was so aggravated that there had been so much politicking and so much fighting that it almost didn't seem worth it.

GCN: Your pieces were almost uniformly side-splitting. Why did they give you a hard time?

TS: There was a tremendous amount of fear surrounding the show because Lorne [Michaels, producer during its glory years] had taken the show over again and he felt a lot of people were gunning for it. There was paranoia and expectations to compare to Gilda and this one and that one. So it turned out there wasn't a sense of camaraderie, of ensemble. Everybody was competing against each other and there was a tremendous amount of disapproval. It wasn't an environment built on praise or support for doing something right. At *Saturday Night Live* it was fear, intimidation and manipulation. It was a sense of "try to get Daddy's approval really hard" and waiting outside of the offices for hours to try to get a little nod of the head. Then I'd be meeting people in the street who'd go "I just love you!" and I'd feel like saying "Would you come with me please? Could you tell my producer that?" I'd come in and they'd say, "We didn't write anything for you this week, we didn't know what to do." And I'd be like "Hello am I on this show? Am I in the right studio? Maybe I'm on Hullabaloo."

It was like the *Twilight Zone* and I don't function well in that kind of environment. So I chose not to return to it. The time passed when I was supposed to make my phone

call and I didn't make the call. Then I took an ad out nominating myself for an Emmy as Nancy Reagan, sitting on an armchair with Ronald Reagan and Nancy's saying, "If I win, I'm just leaving you." I think that really upset them too. I just wasn't playing the game according to the rules that they'd set up, so it didn't work out.

GCN: Does this mean that you didn't get along with the other cast members like the fabulous Danitra Vance?

TS: The cast liked each other, we wanted to like each other. It was like you were in a war, with people in a trench and you're bonded together by the experience. Danitra was experiencing her thing as a Black woman, the kind of parts — people just didn't know what to write for her. It wasn't who we were, because we were Black or because we were gay — it was because of the way the show was set up. It was the "System" and everyone suffered from it. Anthony Michael Hall, who is very talented, came off very badly. People weren't doing their best because there was not that support behind them. It wasn't a gay issue or a Black issue. Danitra I love and think she's very talented.

GCN: In the book *Saturday Night Live* it was said that an incredible amount of sexism stood in the way of Gilda, Jane and Laraine for getting on-air time in sketches. Did homophobia taint their treatment of you and the sketches they chose not to let you do?

TS: There wasn't so much homophobia as ignorance. They just didn't understand a lot of times if Lanier and I had a sketch that was campier. When Diana Ross got married we wanted to do a sketch of her honeymoon. She wouldn't stop singing and she was videotaping the honeymoon! Now to us that's hilarious. But to them, they'd be like, "Diana Ross on her honeymoon? Who wants to see that?" They would not care about things that we thought were absolutely hilarious and that we wanted to do.

NBC censored so many of my characters. I do Mother Teresa. They were really scared, they'd scream, "No one wants this — she's our only living saint — stay away from her!" It wasn't an attack on the woman, I'd just have her doing things that people would never think of her doing. There was one sketch where she was on a roller derby team for charity and she was the toughest one on the whole team. She'd be elbowing everyone and then if they fell down she'd go back and kick them with her skates. Another time, we wrote this thing where it was *Battle of the Network Stars*, Mother Teresa was on those gymnastic rings and she was competing against Suzanne Somers!

At one point they even said, "We've been hard enough on Nancy, we're not going to do her anymore." I said, "We have?"

GCN: Ah, Nancy Reagan, your piece de resistance! How did she come about?

TS: The beginning of the year on the show they asked me, "Could you do Nancy Reagan?" And I said, "Well, give me a minute..." and I pictured myself in a cute little red Adolfo suit and I looked in a mirror and my eyes kinda' widened and I got that smile and that kind of crazed look and I thought, "Yes, I can do Nancy Reagan!" and a little voice came back and said, "Yes you can!" I thought it was funny, I think she's funny, I don't hate her or anything — I think she's hilarious. She's the most underrated comedian in this country. She's certainly got a big career in standup comedy when she leaves the White House.

GCN: Your impersonation of her is so dead-

on it became the real high-point of the show that season. I'm surprised they gave you such a hard time as opposed to giving you whatever you wanted. What were you thinking during all of the hassles?

TS: You don't have time to think during the season. I would get massaged every week and I also do this thing called re-birthing and I would do this breathing process every week. Those things, along with the support of Lanier, were what got me through. If Lanier hadn't been there I think I would have quit mid-season and said "Fuck you, I'm getting out of here — this isn't fun."

GCN: Does that mean that *Broadway Video* won't be doing a "Best of Terry Sweeney" video tape, a la *Dan Ackroyd* and *John Belushi*?

TS: Gee! They might if they think there's a quick buck in it! They may change their tune and go, "Well, you know, we always pushed him, we loved him." Show business always re-writes itself. I have to say, I'm really very grateful to Lorne. He gave me that opportunity, so whether we got along later on or not, he really did a tremendous service for me.

GCN: I remember reading then that you and Lanier were starting up your own production company around that time. Did you begin that project right after you left?

TS: By the time I was off the show I thought, "Oh, I need a break from this," so I took one. I went all over and went on kind of a metaphysical odyssey via Seattle and Boulder and Santa Fe, we travelled all over the country. We went everywhere.

GCN: Did people recognize you?

TS: Yes, they did. (Laughs) People would always say that they loved me and I made them laugh and that was the wonderful thing that was happening during that time. Because I was saying, "What am I doing? Why do I do this? What's the point of all this?" People would say, "I fell off my chair when you did such and such," and then I'd think, "Oh yeah, that's the connection." But you didn't feel that connection when you were on that show. The audience feels so far away because there's dozens of cameras there. There wasn't any immediate feedback coming. So that was my "I've left show business" period. Anything to do with show business I thought was, like, from hell. That's when I began a lot of metaphysical studies which I've been involved with ever since. I took a lot of different workshops and really explored who I was and what I was doing and why I was here on the planet.

GCN: Do these metaphysical studies instill your bravery — I'm not sure you're aware of just how radical it is that you're an up-front gay television star?

TS: I just believe in telling and being the truth always. I waited on tables for five years and I've always been who I am. As a matter of fact I worked at the Magic Pan on Newbury Street in Boston. Even then I realized that you are who you are and you love yourself and don't apologize for yourself. I was always who I was as a waiter. If I was a screaming queen I was a screaming queen, if not I wasn't. No one ever said to me, "Would you mind toning it down?" Because I would've said, "Yes I do, goodbye." People say to me, "Look, I can't come out at my job...I can't tell my parents." It's denying yourself that visibility, to be seen as who you are. It kills you in the long run. Talking about being gay is a matter of fact thing for me.

GCN: Essentially you are the only out personality in show business. That must put tremendous pressure on you.

TS: What would be pressure for me would be to be closeted because I'm liberated. I love who I am and don't have to lie about it. I'm very, very blessed. I never think, oh what a burden, being gay. Being totally who I am has pushed everything forward for me. As for other people, I like to think that everyone's doing the best they can. Sure, there are countless numbers of gay people in the business, really famous actors who are gay out here [in L.A.] and in New York and they're not coming out. They're so terrified; if they could muster up more courage they would and they'd come out. But they just can't seem to do it and I can't hate them. They're my gay brothers and my gay sisters. I don't hate them because I know what fear is. More people will come out; all you can do is be out and happy and then someone else says, "You know I'm gonna do that too."

GCN: Were you always happy, even as a kid?

TS: Well, I was a little sissy growing up. The words "Let's get him" were very familiar to me. I grew up on Long Island. Going on the bus every morning was real traumatic for me because of the kids in the back of the bus. And "Terry" happens to rhyme with "fairy" rather nicely, and "Sweeney" rhymes with "weenie" and kids love to make those genius rhymes! My lover was "Lanier the Queer." I was beaten up, called names, threatened, I had everything happen to me when I was growing up and still I met their hatred with love; I didn't return hatred or bigotry. It's like I don't hate Jerry Falwell, I love born again Christians; they're coming from fear. I can't hate them because it costs me too much energy.

The hate just takes its toll on you and your immune system. Jerry Falwell isn't sitting there going, "Gee all those gay people just hate me. I'm tormented by this." I choose not to focus on that; I choose to forgive born again Christians because I know that if they knew me they would love me.

But I spent time when I was younger hating society, hating myself. When I was 12 years old, my parents were getting these medical encyclopedias from the A&P and they got to HOMO and I was real excited; I thought, "Ohhh! Here's the book I was waiting for!" It said, "A mental illness usually associated with..." and I thought, "I'm mentally ill." I went into such a depression and it put me through years of upset.

When I was in college two people from the Gay Speakers Bureau came to speak and I was amazed at their courage. At Middlebury College in Vermont everybody was real preppy, talking about "the powder and the moguls" and nobody cared about anything. They were all from these very rich conservative families. A man and a woman came from the [Gay Speakers] Bureau and the woman had on a fisherman's cap and she was smoking a pipe! And she goes [in a gravelly voice], "So you wanna talk about homosexuality, huh? How many dykes are in this room — raise your hand?" I mean those girls, their eyes popped out and their headbands almost flew off their heads! They were so shocked and nobody raised their hand of course and she said, "Hmmm. I thought so!" She started letting 'em have it and she was just totally who she was. I was blown away. I'd never seen two people stand in front of a room and go, "Yeah, I'm gay."

This was 1973 and this was amazing. When I saw that I said, "That's for me" and I immediately joined. I came out to everyone a week later. I spoke at different places around Boston and people would ask you questions like you were a circus animal "What do you eat in the morning?" "What do you do every night?" I said, "Well, I get in the spaceship and I go to a place where it's

ST LADY OF TV o Terry Sweeney

By Christopher Wittke □

just a lot of penises and we all kind of wave 'em at each other. What do you think I do?"

I did that for a long time and got to see that it wasn't meanness — just ignorance most of the time. I've done a lot of work on myself and I'm very spiritual — not religious — I'd like to make that distinction — because I went through the Catholic Church which is like being part of a cult and being brainwashed. That's not just for gays, that's for anybody — any thought of sex is an impure thought. That's pounded into you. Since that time I've had to do a lot of healing. Christianity has taken and distorted so many things that Christ said and used them against people for power, it's no wonder people have such a hard time. But now I feel that I have a very strong relationship with God. I meditate every day, I pray every day. I have a group meditation in my home, mixed gay/lesbian and straight, every week. To me God is gay, God is Black, God is a big lesbian with a giant penis! God is everything and within every person.

GCN: *What can we expect from you in the near future — do you think you'll be back on Fox Broadcasting soon?*

TS: That depends, they're probably still recovering from my last appearance there. I love the chance to do my stuff and get people plugged-in. People going, "I can't believe he said that! And he went down to a girdle and put his legs up into the air! And he said Jerry Falwell was his lover and Pope John Paul." You know, I'm never thinking, "Every gay person needs this," I'm just having fun. I don't know any other way to be — at least people get to see someone telling their truth. And maybe someone will say, "If he can do it, I can do it." That's what I'd like to encourage, in their lives, it doesn't have to be in show business. Just by being a gay person who's open and out you're educating everyone who's around you.

If you ever told me when I was twelve years old that I would get to the point where I would tell the entire nation, "Hey, I'm a fag," I would've said, "Ha ha ha — not me!" I never would've believed it. Coming from that point of opening that medical book and thinking I was sick and a pervert but *now* knowing that it's never kept me from doing anything — instead I bless it. Now I feel I made a spiritual soul choice before this lifetime. It's like I was looking down at this menu and I said, "I'll take Gay, Man, do some drag? Okay, a little over there, and oh — I'll take a major TV show there!" I try to communicate that happiness, especially to my gay brothers and sisters. I want to share that love and my path with them.

I'm writing a book about all of this with the tentative title of *Dare to Love*. In it I'm going to address a lot of positive gay issues. I'm also going to talk to people who are in remission from AIDS, people who have healed themselves metaphysically. People who were told five years ago they were going to die and now they're healthier than they've ever been. Someone I know had a friend who was 19 and the doctor told him two things: you can never have sex again and you're going to die. That kind of stuff is just ignorance. People should know that there are alternatives. In a world where gay people do not think that they're safe... and there's extra guilt thrown onto the gay population, you're raised thinking you're sick and those thoughts get to operating in the subconscious. So the book is working with affirmations, breathing, rebirthing and alternative methods, things that I've learned that have helped me be totally alive and loving. Maybe people will say, "Well, gee, maybe I'll take a look at spirituality." I hope to have it out in the fall.

GCN: *And you can go plug it on the Oprah Winfrey show!*

TS: I will, everywhere and anywhere! It's so important to talk about this stuff instead of people going, "Can I catch it if someone sneezed in a restaurant and if I'm at the next table?" and Oprah going, "Well, *can* they?" If I see one more show — I had a friend call me up and say, "You've got to tell me about AIDS!" I had to go talk her down. By the time some of these shows are finished they have people whipped into a frenzy.

Oprah hosted *Saturday Night Live* and she's very sweet and she's very nice and she's not like that at all. She's an open and loving person and she has a lot of gay friends and she doesn't buy into any of that stuff. It's important for someone to be on those shows and say, "C'mon, let's get real here *ladies*! Let's not get into one of our panicky little states." Instead of channeling all of that energy into Hang-A-Homo. We need to educate people.

Besides the book I have a few things coming up. I like to let things happen. Our production company has a movie called *Burning Love* coming out real soon. It stars Dave Thomas and Barbara Carrera and it's about that hilarious time in our history when we were burning witches at the stake in Salem. It's really about hypocrisy and greed. And later there's a movie called *Shagg* which is a sweet and innocent coming-of-age story about four girls in the early '60s.

I'm going to be in a Julie Brown video. She's doing a thing called "Trapped in the Body of a White Girl" and I'm going to play Nancy Reagan in the video. We're friends and I love her work.

I *do* get movie scripts. I've gotten a lot of scripts to be decorators and stuff like that; most are just absolutely atrocious. Parts where I would just say, "Fabulous" 500 times. I'm going to write something for myself; I'm learning about making movies. I'm starting to co-produce things and Lanier is going to start directing. We're learning how to do it so we can do more.

I'm looking at all kinds of options. *The Terry Sweeney Show* is a deal of mine and I'd love to do that on Fox television. I always loved the *Benny Hill* format, where you don't have to have sketches with the beginning, middle and end. I have a whole board filled with sketch ideas and characters and Fox seems to be the perfect venue for that sort of thing.

GCN: *Who makes you laugh?*

TS: Pee Wee Herman makes me laugh. I like Tracey Ullman. I feel like they're people that are doing things that are different. That's what I like.

GCN: *Will you be going to the March on Washington? You could go as Nancy!*

TS: I could get married on the steps of the Supreme Court! It would be fun to be Nancy there. And welcome everybody! "Drinks are on me!" I would love to do that. I hope all the hotels won't be booked up for my honeymoon suite! "Sorry we're all booked up Mr. Sweeney, you'll have to stay in jail with the others."

GCN: *Well, I know you think being an out-of-the-closet gay TV star is just simple, honest truth for you. But you should know that for a whole year many viewers like myself looked to you for the grain of reality on TV. You were the only source in the media. The first episode that season they did the "AIDS Fear Hits Hollywood" sketch and you—*

TS: And I said "I'm gay." Yeah I said it right on TV. Wasn't that amazing? (Laughs).



All photos by Heinija courtesy The Late Show/Fox Broadcasting Co.



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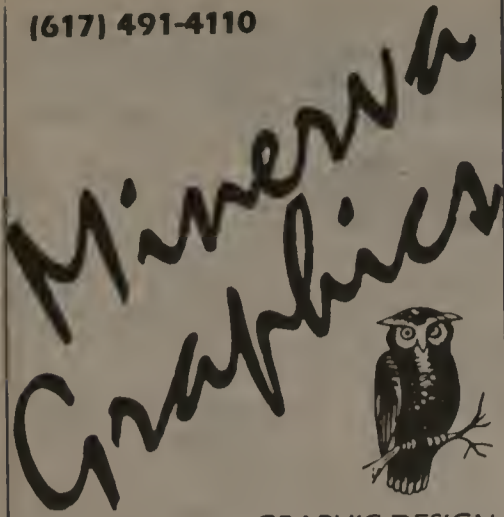
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Reprinted from Real Paper, "Best of Boston," Fall 1980.

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Curtain

Continued from page 6
in the morning.

The mixed cafes in Czechoslovakia and Poland are apparently useful to gay men because they provide them with "protective coloration." None is needed in Budapest. The Egyetem's free atmosphere is strongly reminiscent of gay cafes in Western Europe, with one glaring exception: the virtually total absence of lesbians. (But perhaps they meet elsewhere.)

According to HOSI VIENNA (International Lesbian/Gay Association's listening post for lesbian/gay developments in Eastern Europe), AIDS-related "police raids on gay bars such as the disco 'Kis rablo' in Budapest, have been increasing." I never saw a police officer enter the Egyetem but then, I never attended the disco.

My Hungarian gay informant told me about the thermal baths where some degree of sexual contact is made (mostly tentative and extremely tame by Amsterdam and North American standards). He also welcomed me into the small circle of his closest gay friends. In addition to what I have mentioned, they knew of several tearooms and of one or two restaurants where men might make assignments. But as for police raids on the Budapest disco, and a Hungarian gay organization, if these exist, this circle of men (one of them a senior newspaper executive) had never heard of either.

To one of the latter I mailed the Western European comments cited above, requesting his reactions. He replied as follows: "I am sorry that I cannot do as you requested. Please do not forget where I am living. When you return for a visit, I will be happy to comply [face to face, rather than by mail]." □

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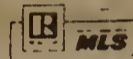
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Pre-teen

Continued from page 6

imagination. The insensitive straights who had exploited me. The apologetic rejection of David, my intense grief and remorse at my grandmother's abrupt death. I felt very much an adolescent floundering in the world of adult quicksand.

Today, here in prison, I see how some queens are mistreated and mechanically I reflect back. In retrospect, I again feel the anger from long ago. How cruel these so-called men treat queens here. Over the previous years, I have nurtured myself to be strong mentally, physically and above all emotionally, which is what all prison queens should do. Put aside your inadequate inabilities.

I can't tell you how tired I am of reading about prison queens going to protective custody, out on a limb, or meekly submitting to men under unbearable conditions. Even though some of us don't look or act it, we are all men which undoubtedly makes us equal. Many gays are having tremendous inner struggles with their identity and these forcible prison relationships only add to their instability. Relationships are never easy. You must have patience and understanding. You must have allow each other space for your personalities. When you choose up, you accept the person for their good and bad side. If you are dealing with an irrational man, you are simply faced with an ultimatum in which you either strap up and fuck someone up to gain respect, or meekly succumb to protective custody.

Ironical as it may be, I find that a one-year prison relationship is equivalent to a two-year relationship in the free world. You have to put so much more into the relationship here because there are so many outside forces trying to pull a queen from her man. Anyway, I'm with this dude named Robert. I chose him because he's different. We have an open, honest relationship based on honesty, trust and understanding. I'm with him by choice, not force. Actually, the meat market is very good in here. The selection of men is wide and I'm so sure the variety is the most. I'm happy in my relationship, but, of course, I feel the urge to vamp now and then.

My message to prison queens is chin up, B strong, and most important, B yourself. Sisters are doin' it for themselves. There's a saying: "If we could kick the person most responsible for our problems, we wouldn't be able to sit down for a week."

Dwayne (Candie) Miller
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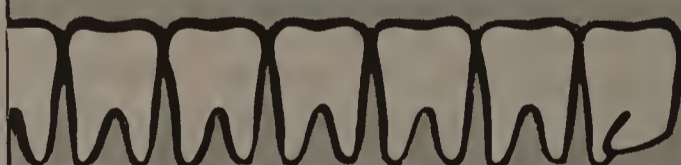
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...about Boston events of interest to lesbians and gay men, be a part of your community lesbian and gay, anti-racist, feminist newspaper and get your name in print. Yes, you too can be a GCN volunteer newswriter. Write about a broad range of events or pick your beat — -anarchist queers, sex politics, political organizing by people of color, electoral politics, AIDS in the Black community, lesbian activists, bars and anything else you could possibly imagine. Journalism experience not required. Call Kim at GCN, 426-4469. (C)

TRUCK, VAN OR RIDE
NEEDED TO HELP

Transport bundles of GCN (you know, your favorite weekly paper) to the March on Washington. One-way ride or use of a large van or small truck any day between Sat. Oct. 3 and Mon Oct. 4. GCN can provide gas and a driver. If you can help out, call Dan Page at (617) 426-4469. (9)

SERVICES

HAPPY CARE MEANS HAPPY KIDS

Experienced, caring, non-homophobic, anti-racist day care provider has F/T, P/T vacancies from Sept. Seeks to care for children of people with similar philosophies. 661-6760 after 7pm. A real home away from home for your child. (9)

RESUMES THAT WORK

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Includes consultation
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ROOMMATE WANTED

ARLINGTON APT TO SHARE

LF Law student, athletic seeks non-smoking LF to share sm 2 BR house w/fireplace, fenced-in yard, off street parking. Must be clean + neat, and like dogs. Call Kathryn, lv message 641-2851. (8)

WHAT A DEAL IN WATERTOWN

LF, GM, prof, student for 2 bdrm. 1st fl Les-owned home. Close to H20town Sq. & Mt. Aubun St bus lines. Back porch, yd, frpl, hdwd flrs, w/d. Sun & airy-safe, quiet, local. No smk. \$425 + . 926-7943 NOW. (9)

ROOMMATE WANTED

JP-3 min to Arboretum. LF 37 seeks friendly, independent rmte for sunny 3rd fl apt. Wash mach, Great porch, hdwd flr, newly paint. Sorry no pet or smoke. \$275 + util. 522-2240. (9)

Boston Roomate
Center

Get to know your next roommate
and apartment before getting run
down with endless interviews.

GAY LISTINGS.

354-7706

2 Rms avail in beaut. Rosl. hm with irreverent spiritual W 35. Sun, trees, birds, nr. Arb. Reas. rent. Cat OK, no cigs. Dovidia, 327-3367. (8)

GM 24 & LF 27 sk nonsmkr, veg. LF or GM 24 + w/sense of humor for beautiful Somerville apt. Sorry, no more cats. Avail immediately. \$293 + . 776-7909. (8)

Gay Community News classifieds

My heading is

FLAMER!

Max. 20 characters

BOLD

Max. 30 characters

My text is

\$7.00	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$7.00
\$7.00	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$7.00
\$7.00	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$7.00
\$7.00	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$7.00
\$7.00	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$7.00
\$7.00	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$7.25	\$7.50
\$7.75	\$8.00	\$8.25	\$8.50	\$8.75
\$9.00	\$9.25	\$9.50	\$9.75	\$10.00
\$10.25	\$10.50	\$10.75	\$11.00	\$11.25
\$11.50	\$11.75	\$12.00	\$12.25	\$12.50

Need more room! Just keep writing on a separate sheet of paper at a cost of 25¢ per word (35¢ per word for business ads).

Basic cost

☐ Non-business rate: 25¢ @ word (28 wd. min.)
☐ Business rate: 35¢ @ word (28 wd. min.)

\$ _____ per ad x _____ number of runs \$ _____

Special heading

☐ Flamer (\$3.00 x _____ number of runs) \$ _____
☐ Bold (\$1.50 x _____ number of runs) \$ _____

Total cost before discounts (add) \$ _____

Discounts

☐ 10-20 consecutive weeks. Deduct 10% \$ _____
☐ 21-30 consecutive weeks. Deduct 15% \$ _____
☐ 31 + consecutive weeks. Deduct 20% \$ _____
☐ I'm going to subscribe now. Deduct \$2 \$ _____
☐ I'm giving a gift subscription. Deduct \$2 \$ _____

Subtotal \$ _____

Box service

☐ Pick-up box. \$4 for 6 weeks \$ _____
☐ Forwarding box. \$6 for 6 weeks \$ _____

Subscriptions

☐ I want to subscribe! \$ _____
☐ I want to give a gift subscription! \$ _____

US: \$33; Canada: \$45. Institutional rate: \$40.

Display Boxed Classifieds

☐ \$15 per column inch
_____ inches x \$15 \$ _____

Total \$ _____



GCN's "Guaranteed Roommate" offer:
ALL ROOMMATE AND
HOUSEMATE ADS THAT
ARE PREPAID FOR TWO
WEEKS WE WILL RUN
UNTIL YOU FIND A
ROOMMATE



Ads will not be automatically renewed. You must call in every additional week you want the ad to run. Phone calls will be accepted all day Mondays and Tuesdays until noon. 426-4469.

Share sunny apt near Newburyport Ctr with GM. 2 frpls, hdwd flrs, w/d, prkng. No smokers. \$350 + . Avail 10-1. 465-2357. (8)

3 LF + cat sk LF 25 + to complete our home in Natick. Independent, active, friendly, comfortable. Had w/d, yd, woodstove, pkg. Easy access to Mass Pike, Rte 9 + commuter train. No more pet, no smkg. \$325 + util. 655-8618 eves. (9)

Prof LF 35 w/cats & one child seeks prof nonsmoker with or without child to share my Concord MA home. Avail Oct 1. Call Mary 371-1000 x 212. (8)

COMMUTE PARTTIME TO BOSTON!

Furn rm avail in beautiful Mission Hill apt 3-4 nights/wk for G or Bi M or F, 30+ . Must love pets. No smoke/drugs/ littlealc. Porch/w/d/d/cathedral ceil. Walk to T. \$18/nt, incl util. 277-5835. (8)

2 White, 1 Black L/Bi f's seek L/Bi woman of color to share home 4 bedroom hse nr Davis Sq, Somerville. Semi collective warm indep. We have 2 cats, nonsmk pref. \$275/mo incl heat. Avail Sept 15, 776-4693. (8)

My category is:

☐ PERSONALS ☐ ANNOUNCEMENTS ☐ HELP WANTED
☐ ROOMMATE WANTED ☐ HOUSING WANTED
☐ APARTMENTS ☐ SUMMER RENTALS ☐ RESORTS
☐ FOR SALE ☐ PUBLICATIONS ☐ ORGANIZATIONS
☐ SERVICES ☐ RIDES ☐ MOVERS ☐ OTHER

•Deadline: Tuesday 12 noon for each Friday's edition.

•All ads must be prepaid.

•No ads accepted over telephone.

•Clip and return this form to:

GCN Classifieds

62 Berkeley St.

Boston, MA 02116

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

CLASSIFIEDS

2 LF seek 1 LF to share 3 bdrm apt in J.P. Walk to Pond & T. Must like animals. Avail now! Call 524-3925. Keep trying. (8)

LF 22 seeks LF or F, preferably feminist to share sunny 2 br apartment in Dorchester. 1 block from T, no smoking. \$325 + . Call 265-2010. (*7)

F seeks same to share Newton apt. Looking for mature, responsible, stable individual. Chem-free environment. Have 2 cats. No more pets please. \$325/mo plus 1/2 utilities. Call 244-6522. Leave message. (8)

SOMERVILLE SPACIOUS DUPLEX

1M 29 smkr seeks indep, resp, friendly M or F rmt to share very nice 2 br, 5 1/2 room apt on Red line. Big yard. \$275 + util. Avail inned. 628-7127, Tom. (8)

DORCHESTER MELVILLE PARK

2M sk 1 M to shr 9 rm duplex 2 baths, jacuzzi, D&D, lg rms, deck, nr Red line. Avl, sec req, no smk, no pets. \$350 + . Call Mike 288-7088. (8)

COMFY NATICK HOME TO SHARE

LF Couple & son seek mature, reasonable F.
Near Train, Pike, rt 9. W/D 3dbr privacy. \$375 incl util. No smokers, pets or transients please. 655-8331. (8)

CAMBRIDGE/FRESH POND

LF 37 lok for F roommate to share sunny 2 br apt w/porch. Friendly, resp + neat. Nosmoking/pets, \$380 + . Call 661-785. Leave message. (8)

2LFs 28 sk 3rd for lg 2 fl apt on quiet St nr Davis Sq T. We are friendly, indep, share food w/d, porch. Avail 9/1, \$270 + . Sorry no pets/smoke. 776-8405. (8)

LF prof. seeks GM prof. to share 3 bdr renov condo in JP 1 block from forest Hill T. 2 porches hdw floors. Sunny, must be neat, clean, responsible, friendly. \$400 includes all. 522-5569. (8)

2LFs seek 2 more for spacious 4 bdr in Medford Sq on Busline. We are fun, communicative, political, independent, spiritual, and are hoping to create semi-coop home. Please, no smoke or pets. Avail Sept 15. Call Barbara or Nancy at 623-5035 or B. at work 643-2442. Thanks! (10)

F 24 seeks non-smoking LF roommate for lg beautiful Mission Hill apt. Quiet street, near T, bus. Must like dogs. Avail 9/1. \$210+ Please call after 8/18. (401) 751-6873. (7)

TEELE SQUARE, SOMERVILLE

LF 35 & dog sk LF 30 + ,
non-smker pref. 2 1/2 bd, 2 porch, 10 min walk to T, \$275 incl. incl heat. NO MORE PETS. Sorry. 625-1039, lv. mssg. (8)

Arlington near Camb line \$266/mo LF sks 2, F roommates beautiful apt near public trans. 646-2746. 1 am 32 pref LFs over 26. (7)

JLF seek JLF 25+ for independent, friendly, great apt. to rent, nr Davis Sq. veggie/kosher. Pls call 623-8603. (8)

HOUSING WANTED

GM moving to Boston from Midwest to complete research for thesis. Needs housing, avail late Sept or early Oct. Can pay up to \$325/mo. Non-smoking, vegetarian, very political but also very versatile. Please respond to Boxholder, PO Box 782082, Wichita, KS 67278. (9)

LESBIAN NATUROPATHIC DR.

AND DOG SEEK HOME IN N.H.
Moving to Nashua area in September. Looking for home with other non-smoking women, fenced yard. Leave message for Devra at 617-395-1920. (8)

APARTMENTS

Dorchester 6rm 2 BDRM 1st flr remod kitch/bath, new systems, porch, fresh paint, gas stove ht wtr, oil heat, safe ownr occ bldg. \$575mo 282-1196, eve. (10)

WATER'S EDGE - REVERE CONDO

Bright, new 14th fl 2br/2bath w/unobstr full ocean view. w/w, d + d, AC, heat/pkg/pool/sauna/tennis. At Blue line T. Avail imm. by ownr. 241-8285. (8)

REAL ESTATE

PROVINCETOWN

Directly on the beach. 1 bedroom year round condo in 9 unit complex. 1 1/2 yrs old. Hardwood floors. Large deck. 897-6424. M-Th \$150,000. (*8,9)

RESORTS

MIKE'S GUEST HOUSE STOCKBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Your Bed and Breakfast in the Berkshires - open year round - singles and couples welcome - Call for rate and reservations. (413) 298-4095. (17)

WHITE MOUNTAIN MAGIC

Long, lazy days by our pool, cool nights by a crackling fire. Peace & privacy on 100 beautiful acres. Charming guest rooms. Gracious, common areas. Hiking, golf, tennis, antiquing nearby. The Highlands Inn, Box 118G, Bethlehem NH 03574. (603) 869-3978. Grace & Judith, innkeepers. (15.11)

CHECK'ER OUT

AT THE CHECK'ER INN

Double rooms, coffee by fireside, parking. Apartments also available. 1 block to bay, open year'round. 487-9029, 25 Winthrop St., P'town, MA 02657 (49)

FOR SALE

CONDOMS: BUDDY PAK

1 dry + 2 wet + packets lub. \$3 or 3 Buddy Paks for \$6. Check or m.o. Cowboy Protection, Inc. P.O. Box 3475 Abilene, Texas 79604. (10)

Effective Drugless immune strengthener and anti-viral supplement. For information write to Hart Enterprises, 1197 Main St. Waltham, MA 02154. (8)

PUBLICATIONS

BLACK/OUT

The new quarterly magazine from the National coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, features news, views, reviews, poetry, short fiction and announcements of interest to the national Black Lesbian and Gay community. Sample copy, \$4, 1 yr. subscription, (4 issues) \$10. To: Black/Out, NCBLG, P.O. Box 2490, Washington, DC 20013. (ex)

LESBIAN CONTRADICTION

A Journal of Irreverent Feminism. Quarterly of commentary, analysis, reviews, cartoons & humor by and for women who agree to disagree-who are still political, but not necessarily correct. Sample \$1; sub \$5; more if/less if. LesCon, 584 Castro, -263C, SF, CA 94114 (V15.21)

GUARDIAN:Independent radical newsweekly. Covers Gay, women and minority struggles and international progressive movements. Special offer-4 issues FREE Write Guardian, Dept GCN, 33W 17th St. NY, NY, 10011 (ex)

off our backs

Celebrating 15 years of radical feminist journalism. We bring feminist national/ international news analysis and reviews each month. \$11 year, 11 issues. (\$15 for contributing subs) \$20 institutional fee. Sample-\$3 for 3 issues! Write 'off our backs' Dept GCN, 1841 Columbia Rd. NW, Room 212 Washington, DC 20009. (ex)

OUTRAGEOUS WOMEN

National journal of woman-to-woman S/M. Diverse feminist quarterly of S/M fact, fiction and photos. \$11/yr. Single issues \$3. Must state you are over 18. SASE for info. PO Box 23, Somerville MA 02143. (ex)

WOMAN OF POWER: A Magazine of Feminism, Spirituality, and Politics," an inspiring international quarterly publication. Subscriptions \$22 for 4 issues; singles issues \$6 plus \$1 postage. P.O. Box 827, Cambridge, MA 02238, telephone (617) 625-7885. (ex)

ON OUR BACKS, the sexual entertainment magazine for lesbians, is 48 pages of erotic fiction, features, plus timely sexual advice and news columns. We are quarterly, national, unique and provocative. \$15/yr sub or \$5 current issue to: On Our Backs, PO Box 421916, San Francisco, CA 94142. (ex)

ORGANIZATIONS

GAY IN THE MERRIMAC VALLEY?

New social group starting Sept 20 in Lowell. Both men and women welcome. Interested? Call david 452-4686 or Cheryl 453-2096. (10)

GAY YOUTH COMMUNITY FUND

Sponsors of youth/student projects send tax-deductable donations payable to: GYCC/Capp St. Foundation. Mail to: GYCF, 2215-R Market St., Suite 479, San Francisco, CA 94114. (30)

OLDER LESBIAN ENERGY

Social and support group for women over 40. P.O. Box 1214, East Arlington, MA 02174. (15.48)

DOB

Support organization for lesbians, 1151 Mass Ave, Camb. OCB. Raps every Tues, Thurs at 8:pm. Special raps for 35+, parents, ynger women, baby boomers, singles, coming out, issues forum. All 8pm. Monthly events, outing club, library. Info: 661-3633. All women invited to participate. (15.35)

BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER

Multiracial group for all people . Call (415) 431-1976 or write BWMT, suite 140, 580 Castro St. SF, CA, 94114. (V16.1)

BOSTON ALLIANCE OF GAY AND LESBIAN YOUTH

Social support group for youth 22 and under. Wed. night general meeting from 7:30-9pm. New persons meeting at 6:30. Women's meeting at 6. Call 497-8282 for info. (32)

MAN/BOY LOVE

A support group for intergenerational relationships. For more information send \$1 to: NAMBLA-GCNAD at 537 Jones ST. NO 8418, S.F. CA 94102 or PO Box 174, New York, New York 10018. (23)

MOVERS

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No overtime charges, 354-2184
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No job too big or too small
Very careful movers 641-1234

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MPDU#24430
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Store, Pack, Move-Home & Office
Mention this ad for a discount
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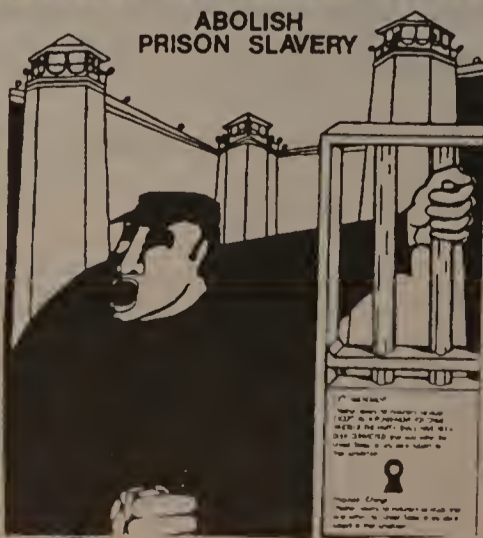
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- 24 HOUR DELIVERY
- LIC. and INS.

236-1848



Prisoners Seeking Friends

TO ALL THOSE, IN & OUT OF PRISON, WHO FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE.
Alexander Berkman, — Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist

BOSTON AREA READERS!

Prison Book Program will be sending out books to prisoners (some gay/lesbian, some not) on SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 from 5 to 9 at the Redbook Store, 92 Green St, Jamaica Plain (almost across from the Green St. stop on the Orange line). If interested in dropping by for awhile to help out or in dropping by some books, please call Mike at GCN, 426-4469. Thanks.

AIDS

PEOPLE WITH AIDS COALITION is publishing an excellent newsletter (monthly) which is FREE to PWAs who can't afford it (\$20 a year to those who can). Write them at PWA Newslite, 263A W. 19th St, New York, NY 10011.

AIDS info 1

Prisoners, if you can call 800 telephone numbers from your phones, you can get info on AIDS by calling the AIDS Hotline: 1-800-447-2437.



GAY PRISONERS & PROTECTIVE CUSTODY

Legal issues & cases about how to get into PC if you want, or out of it, if you want that. Write GCN, 62 Berkeley St, Boston, MA 02116 for a copy of "Prisons Within Prisons".

Seattle Gay News is FREE to prisoners in Washington and Oregon states (only). Write SGN, 704 E Pike St, Seattle WA 98122.

GAYCON PRISON OUTREACH

works with gay and bi prisoners providing penpals, parole help, rap groups for ex-prisoners, gay/lesbian books & mags, and other things. Write: Gaycon Prison Outreach, 1736 Belmont Ave No.506, Seattle, WA 98122 (New address)

USEFUL ADDRESSES:

[Let them know gay prisoners exist!]
Nat'l Gay & Lesbian Task Force
1517 U St. NW
Wash. DC 20009
Nat'l Coalition of Black Lesbians & Gays
930 F St.NW, Washington DC 20004
Just US (legal aid)
Box 13673
El Paso, TX 79913
ACLU National Gay Rights Proj.
633 South Shatto Place,
Los Angeles, CA 90005.
ACLU National Prison Project,
1616 P St. NW, Wash DC 20036
National Lawyers Guild
Gay Rights
3501 S. Congress Ave
Lake Worth, FL 33461
(305)964-9455

Black and White Men Together

(an interracial gay men's network with chapters in 30 cities; political and educational programs) -
BWMT, 584 Castro St.
San Francisco CA 94114
MACT (Men of All Colors Together)
Box 148, New York NY 10023
North Amer. Man/Boy Love Assoc.
(NAMBLA)-Bulletins for persons imprisoned for sex with 'minors'
c/o Rock Thatcher, PO Box 70810
Ft Lauderdale FL 33307
Prisoners Union
(for Cal. prisoners)
1315 18th St.
San Francisco, CA 94107
Prisoners Rights Project
(for New York prisoners)
Legal Aid Society
15 Park Row
New York City 10038
Joint Venture (male penpals)
Box 26-8680, Chicago IL 60626

Well educated Ital/Span male seeks correspondence with TV or queen. Expect release in near future. Open minded and enjoy the good times. A. Gene STOWERS, 330765, Rt 1 Box 1077, Brazoria TX 77422

I'd like to say that I have a clear understanding of the situations gay men find themselves in. But it shouldn't be surprising that I'm not gay. Does one have to be gay to understand someone else? I have a lot of unanswered questions and maybe someone can help me out. Peace. Dee BURNS, 83A 756, Box 149, Attica NY 14011.



GCN GAY & LESBIAN PRISONER PROJECT

We send free GCNs, books (when they are donated and money for postage is available), and run free penpal ads for gay & lesbian prisoners (There's sometimes a waiting list because of limited space.) If you can help (you 'outsiders') can help with your time or a contribution of gay/lesbian or other paperbacks, or a donation to help pay for this stuff, please call Mike at GCN, 426-4469, or drop by at 62 Berkeley in the South End



I am from the San Francisco area and am 35 I love the beach and sur and traveling and know a lot about people and care about them. I would love to have a penpal. Chris JOCCHINI, W21111-WB939L, Frontera CA 91720.



Openly gay, 34, long brown and silverish hair, firm muscled physique, locked down [isolation], and seeking mail from any open-minded gays, TVs or TSs who want to develop a for-real writing affair. Chester Vinton HAAS, 327322A, Wynne Unit, Huntsville TX 77349.

Seeking penpal experienced in sexual domination; ability to sustain high state of arousal with expert use of authority. If you are sophisticated and enjoy mastering a willing body and mind, then use me for all the happiness. I'm a youthful 40, pale soft body shaved bare from the face down. female with a male form. Only drawback: I'm in jail, but a meeting of the minds could be interesting. Lena T. MEREDITH, Box C-89776, P129U, Vacaville CA 95966,

Help, Nashville/Memphis!!
Pre-op TS woman would like to find work in Nashville/Memphis area in the next year or two when paroled. Halfway house or other housing and job help would be appreciated! T.D. (Crystal) BOYD, 101461, Rt 1 Turney Ctr, Only TN 37140.

SHE—MALE catalog FREE! Bargain Book Co., Box 7041, Richmond VA 23221. Catalog of she-male books and color mags at very low prices.

Practical Guide to Legal Writing and Legal Method. FREE. Call toll free 1-800-457-1986; or write: Fred B. Rothman Co., 10368 W. Centennial Rd, Littleton, CO
FREE directory of state agencies in NEW YORK: write State of NY, Dept of State, Albany NY 12231, or call (518)474-4750

Seeking penpal. I'm 6'4", 230 lbs, looking for support mentally to deal with homophobic inmates here. I need NO \$\$, just friendship. Am not Butch nor Fem, just myself. Let's keep up the good fight. Chris ('Big Momma') RUSAW, A082924, 19000 SW 377th, Florida City FL 33034.

I received your form letter about the sample copy of GCN. Thanks for the addresses of other gay groups and publications that you put on the other side. I will write some of them too. I'd like to establish a pen friendship. I like to write (have plenty of time), music of all kinds, classical literature, mathematics, fiction, history and theatre. Not looking for a relationship, just an undying friendship. I was a registered nurse on the streets. Andrew KOMENSKY, 55150, Box 3300, Goodyear AZ 85338

I'm looking for fat [Maricon] friend. Please write me. Benjamin RAMOS, Jr., 92800, Camp C, Angola LA 70712.

I would like to correspond with someone in the free world who is also bisexual or gay. Looks unimportant. Feelings and caring is. I like country music, & some classical too, rock music is ok. Please send pics if you have any. Jim L. SPRINGER, Box 10345, 3405 Deer Park Dr. SE, Salem OR 97310

It would sincerely interest me to correspond with someone in the freeworld that wouldlike to exchange sex letters and friendly conversation. I'm 33, lonely and in need of a friend. I'm an ex-hustler from Dallas and also worked the Bay area. Please write Danny Lee DRAPPE, 264766, Ellis II, Huntsville TX 77340

Call me Jan. I'm looking for a sexy man, 12" will do, no less; more ok. Joseph GRIFFIN, 79A 2144, Box 149, Attica NY 14011.

I really am thankful for the weekly copy of the GCN paper that I receive. Would like to have a gay penpal with a vast understanding to write to. Thanks. Gaye. Gregory BULLARD, 093939, A-29 Mail box 188, PO Box 99, Clermont, FL 32711.

I am bisexual and I really do love both of our sexes, male and female. I am 32, and really would like a nice penfriend. Thurmond RIVERS, 075049 (MB 52), PO Box 448, Mayo FL 32066.

My hobbies are reading, education, literature, having a good time, cuddling and writing poetry. My occupation is (was) jewelry designing. My crime possession of marijuana. Would like to write someone. Charles KILLINGSWORTH, 124596, Box 97, McAlester OK 74502.

Physically attractive (even a little 'sexy') looking for someone special to write. John WELCH, 207857, Box 316, Ft Madison IA 52627.

I just broke up with my lover in here and I'm very lonely and depressed. I need someone to write to. Albert CITRO, 77A 4091, Box B, Dannemora NY 12929

GM wishes to correspond with sincere person or persons that are looking for a lasting relationship. No game players please. Donnie STEWART, 179-027, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

I enjoy classical music, movies, sunsets, picnics, romance. I'm very lonely. Please write me. Kenneth BEAMAN, 35983 (A-3-223), Box 1568, Hutchinson KS 67504

Relationship-minded (tired of being alone), not into bars or rough sex, but am well-hung, handsome and fun. Please place my letter in the penpal section, ok? David YEAGER, 159934, Box 7, Moberly MO 65270.

I'll take things from you. I'll take your time and your letters, but most of all I'll take your friendship. I am honest and believe in friends. I want nothing more than to share your thoughts and feelings and to help support the post office. Steve SIMMONS, 86A 3979, Box 367, Dannemora NY 12929.

Bi-male seeking friendship. Discharge in Nov '87, Jr Coll education, neat in appearance. Need help finding work in order to get out in Nov Please send any info you may have to James SELF, Rt 1 Box 36, Jackson NC 27845

Write 'The Stud' and I will turn you on Johnny Hope, Tillery NC 27887

calendar

SEPTEMBER 5 TO SEPTEMBER 16

13 Sunday ☐ Folk tree presents Ferron in concert. Also featuring Greg Brown, Claudia Schmidt, Livingston Taylor and Taj Mahal. Decordova Museum. Shows at noon and 6pm. Tickets: \$17.50/\$18.50. Info: 641-1010.

5 Saturday

Boston ☐ "Aurora/Don't Bore Me, Alice," kindled sculpture by Lisa Turngren, at the BYOA Gallery. 54 Queensbury St. Through Sept. 13.

Boston ☐ Self-worth group for women. Project Place, 32 Rutland St. Free. Info: 262-3740.

Boston ☐ Boston Area Women's Self-Defense Collective meets weekly. Sliding scale. Info: 574-9433.

6 Sunday

Boston ☐ Women's Friendship Network for potlucks and social activities. New members info: 783-0204.

7 Monday

Cambridge ☐ Lesbian entrepreneurs. DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8PM. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

Cambridge ☐ Lesbian rap on religion. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10pm. Info: 354-8807.

8 Tuesday

Cambridge ☐ Sanchin Women's School of Karate and Self-Defense. YWCA, 7 Temple St. Tuesdays and Thursdays through Sept. Info: 577-9514.

Cambridge ☐ Lesbian "Coming Out" rap. DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8PM. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

8 Tuesday

Boston ☐ Civil Disobedience Task Force for the March on Washington. MIT, call for room number. 7 pm. Info: 492-1901.

Boston ☐ Gay Fathers of Greater Boston potluck supper. Info: 742-7897.

9 Wednesday

Dorchester ☐ Greater Boston Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance gay rights bill strategy meeting. 15 Lyndhurst St. 7:30pm. Info: Will Hutchinson or David LaFontaine, 265-0348.

Cambridge ☐ Feminist discussion group: competition in women's lives. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10pm. Info: 354-8807.

Cambridge ☐ "Say It Sister" presents author Marsha Saxton on disability rights for women. WMBR, 88.1FM. 7-8pm.

10 Thursday

Boston ☐ Boston Lesbian and Gay Pride Celebration Committee meeting. Boston City Hall, rm. 801 (Congress St. entrance). Newcomers welcome. 7:30pm. Info: 267-2113.

Boston ☐ Rally against Bork's nomination to the Supreme Court. City Hall Plaza. Noon-1:30pm. Info: 782-1056.

Boston ☐ Beantown Women's Rugby Club practices Tues. and Thurs. Info: Jenny, 782-0130 or Kerri, 731-8358.

Boston ☐ Akin Gallery opening reception. 476 Columbus Ave. 6-9pm. Group show continues through Sept. 26. Info: 266-3535.

Cambridge ☐ Lesbians Choosing Children open discussion. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7:30-10pm. Info: 354-8807.

Cambridge ☐ Open Discussion for Lesbians. DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8PM. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

Boston ☐ GCN's production night. All welcome. Proofreading: before 8PM. Paste-up: after 7PM. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington & Back Bay T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

11 Friday



Cambridge ☐ Adrienne Rich gives a benefit reading for Sojourner and the Boston Women's Fund at Sanders Theatre, Harvard. 8pm. \$8. Info: 661-3567 or 542-5955.

Randolph ☐ Gay Professional Women meet at the Randolph Country Club for bingo and dancing. 8pm. Free to members, \$5 for guests (women only). Info: 585-6051 after 6pm.

Boston ☐ GCN mailing. Come help stuff the paper and meet new friends. 5pm to 10pm. Near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. Info: GCN, 426-4469.

12 Saturday

Boston ☐ Pride Committee picnic on Georges Island. All welcome. Info: 267-2113 (leave message).

Roxbury ☐ Civil Disobedience training for the October action at the Supreme Court. Church of the United Community, 116 Roxbury St. 9:30-4:30. Additional sessions through Oct. 4. Reservations: 492-1091.

Cambridge ☐ Lesbian singles on "Feeling OK About Being Single." DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8pm. \$1. Info: 497-1131.

Medford ☐ Astrologer Kendra Owen on "Something About the Women." WMFO 91.5FM. 10am-2pm.

Boston ☐ Boston March on Washington Committee salutes Barney Frank. Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave. 5-7pm. \$25. Info: 536-0966.

Jamaica Plain ☐ 40-mile bike-a-thon to benefit day care centers in Nicaragua and Southern Africa. Meet at 8:30am near the Arboretum main gate. Info: 524-1793 or 522-7058.

Jamaica Plain ☐ "Community Radio Journalism Workshop." Firehouse Arts Center, 659 Centre St. 10-2pm. \$12. Registration: 524-3816.

Boston ☐ "Social Terrorism: A National Juried Exhibition" presented by Blue Gallery. Mobius, 354 Congress St., 5th floor. Opening reception 6-10pm. Through Oct. 10.

Boston ☐ Symposium on "The Other Body." British photography challenging cultural representations of the body and gender. Boston Univ. Center for Science and Engineering, 590 Commonwealth Ave. 10am-5pm. \$10.

13 Sunday

Boston ☐ "Boston's Other Voice" presents Congressman Barney Frank. WROR 98.5FM. 12:30-1am. (Monday morning)

Jamaica Plain ☐ Lesbian and Gay Neighbors monthly potluck. Jamaica Pond, ODT entrance (opposite Morrairie St. on Jamaica way) or, in case of rain, First Unitarian Church, Eliot St. Info: 522-3894.

Cambridge ☐ Lesbian softball. Magazine Field, Mem. Drive. All abilities welcome. 4-6pm. Info: Steph, 357-5774.

Lincoln ☐ Folk-Tree presents Ferron in concert with Taj Mahal, Livingston Taylor, Greg Brown and Claudia Schmidt. Decordova Museum. Shows at noon and 6pm. \$17.50/\$18.50. Info: 641-1010.

14 Monday

Cambridge ☐ Lesbian rap on jobs and careers. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10pm. Info: 354-8807.

15 Tuesday

Cambridge ☐ "Come Out as You Are" to ManRay/Campus for a dance to benefit the October March on Washington. 7pm-midnight. \$5-\$15 donation at the door. Info: 426-1909.

Cambridge ☐ Didi Stewart's record release party. Nightstage, 823 Main St. 9:30pm.

16 Wednesday

Boston ☐ Fifteen year anniversary celebration for the Mass. Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. Luxor, 69 Church St. (upstairs from Mario's). 5:30-7:30pm. \$10. Info: 262-1565.

Boston ☐ NOW Lesbian Task Force meeting. Boston NOW office, 971 Commonwealth Ave. 6:30pm. Info: 782-1056.

Cambridge ☐ Lesbians 50 and older discuss "Compromise in a Relationship." DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8pm. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

Boston ☐ "Say It Sister" presents Gena Corea on the new reproductive technologies. WMBR, 88.1FM. 7-8pm.

CALENDAR COMPILED BY
BARNABY FISHER

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — It's not often that (some-what) straight organizations take a leading role in queer issues. But by spearheading a lesbian and gay visibility campaign on Boston subways, the multi-issue task force of the Massachusetts Committee of the March on Washington has done just that.

The results are colorful advertisements urging commuters to "come out for yourself, come out for your friends [and] come out for justice." "Gay or not," the signs proclaim, "it's time to stand up for Gay Rights." The month-long advertising campaign is designed to publicize the upcoming National March on Washington.

More than 35 organizations make up the multi-issue task force, including Mobilization for Survival, the Massachusetts chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, and the Rainbow Coalition. Members of those organizations spoke at a September 1 press conference kicking off the subway campaign.

"What does it mean that people in power are trying to outlaw people's sexuality?" asked Melani McAlister of Mobilization for Survival. "Calling lesbians and gay men abnormal is the first step away from saying a woman's place is in the home or women don't have the right to our own [bodies]. . . . I'm not here to talk just about civil rights. I'm here to talk about liberation and survival."

McAlister noted that "as a heterosexual person" who spends most of her time working on peace and justice issues, organizing for the lesbian and gay March on Washington is one of the most important political acts in which she has been involved.

"A lot of us look back and ask, 'Were you there in '63 at the great march on Washington [for Black civil rights]?' " said John Roberts, director of the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts. "Years later we'll look back and say, 'Were you there at the great march on Washington when we [called not only for the] liberation of gay men and lesbians but [for] the liberation of all of us?'"

"What's different about this [subway] ad is the community, the concerns, and the movement it represents," noted lesbian activist Nancy Wechsler. "For gay men and

lesbians it is a way of identifying and making gay and lesbian issues visible as we ride to and from work, the movies and concerts. For non-gay people we hope that this ad campaign will be an opportunity to think about the people in their lives — co-workers, family and friends who may be gay. And for this month we hope they will probe their feelings and fears about gay people and the discrimination that shapes our lives."

"The ad campaign — being visible, taking that risk, claiming our identities publicly — is also what organizing for the October March on Washington is about," Wechsler added. "We are going to Washington because we feel that the only way to change things is for gay people and their supporters to be as visible as possible, not just for a few days in Washington, but every day on our jobs, in our neighborhoods, and in all our political and community work. We still believe one of the most important political acts a gay man or lesbian can make is to come out."

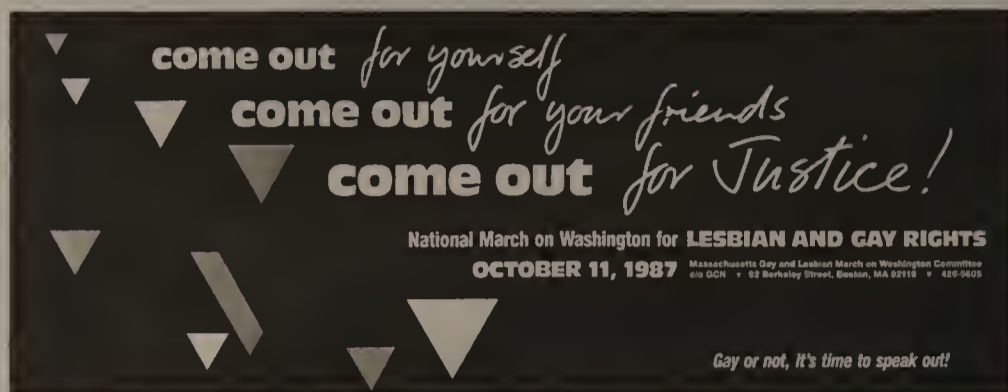
Lesbian and gay and progressive groups have a history of fighting with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) for the right to place their messages on the subway. Ten years ago the Boston Pride Committee sued the MBTA for that right. In 1978 the MBTA attempted to prohibit abortion rights activists from advertising in the subway. And most recently Mobilization for Survival was allowed to place signs protesting the Israeli 20-year occupation of the West Bank only after the threat of a suit.

Wechsler surmised MBTA officials knew they would be successfully sued if they attempted to prohibit the March on Washington advertisements.

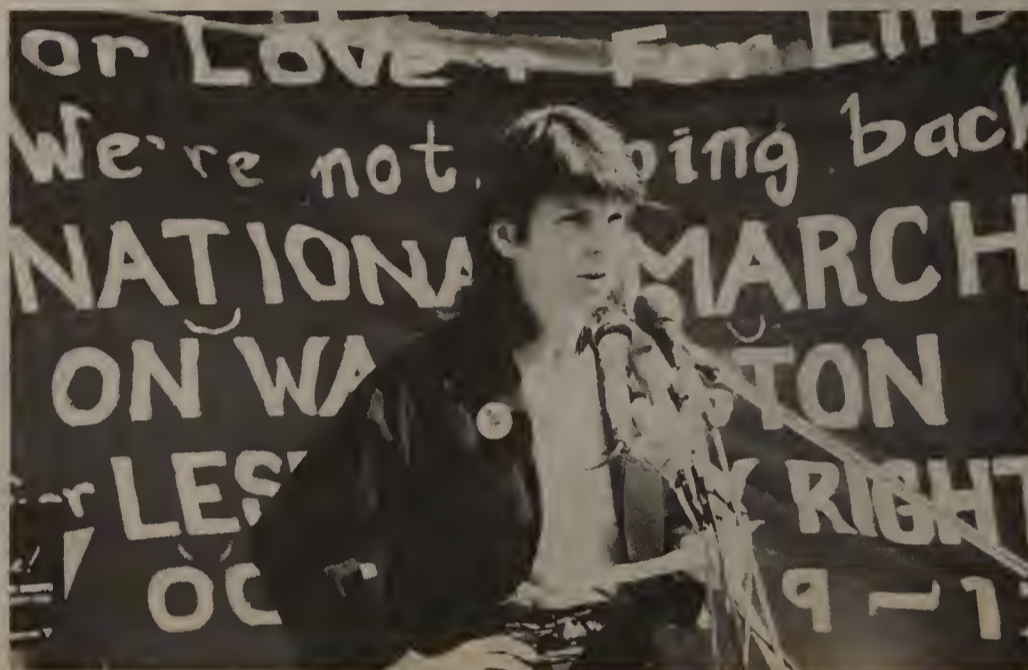
People wishing to sponsor an MBTA sign can send fifteen dollars to the March on Washington, c/o GCN, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116. □

Marching on the subway

March on Washington organizers tell 3 million Boston commuters to come out

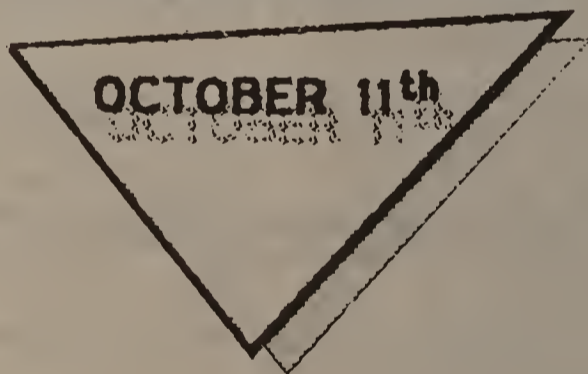


Ad posted in Boston subway trains



Melani McAlister addresses crowd at kick-off for Boston subway ad campaign for the March on Washington.

COME BE A PART OF THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON



FOR LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS October 11, 1987

Complete group and individual travel arrangements for the March and all related events are available through *Innovations in Travel*. For a complete brochure, call (617) 599-6524. For Spanish Speaking Line, call (617) 599-6564. Call the Travel Hotline for any questions and information about group reservations at 1-800-533-2724.

Air, train and bus transportation available. For information about subsidies, or to help with March organizing, call or write the Massachusetts March Office, c/o *Gay Community News*, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116. (617) 426-5605.

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